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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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7 HELD:

8 THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2005

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11 TIME:

12 7:00 p.m.

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15 LOCATION:

16 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

17 SCRANTON CITY HALL

18 340 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE

19 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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24 CATHENE S. NARDOZZI

25 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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3 MR. GARY DIBILEO, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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5 MS. JANET E. EVANS, VICE-PRESIDENT

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7 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT

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9 MR. JOHN POCIUS

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11 MR. ROBERT MCTIERNAN

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13 MARK WALSH, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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15 MR. JAY SAUNDERS, CITY CLERK

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17 MS. KAY GARVEY, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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1 MR. DIBILEO: Please stand for the  
2 Pledge of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a  
3 short prayer. Nice crowd here tonight, thanks for  
4 joining us and, Kay, if we could do a roll call,  
5 please?

6 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan?

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: Here.

8 MS. GARVEY: Mrs. Evans?

9 MRS. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius?

11 MR. POCIUS: Here.

12 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright?

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

14 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Dibileo?

15 MR. DIBILEO: Here. Mr. Saunders,

16 if we can dispense with the reading of the minutes,

17 please.

18 MR. SAUNDERS: Third order, 3-A,

19 APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING

20 HEARING BOARD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2005.

21 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments

22 on 3-A? If not, received and filed.

23 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-B, CONTROLLER'S

24 REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING MAY 31, 2005.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any comments

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1 on 3-B? If not received and filed.

2 MR. SAUNDERS: 3-C, clerk's notes.

3 MR. DIBILEO: And that would be you

4 again.

5 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. President, last

6 week a gentleman spoke about 659 Whales Avenue, it

7 was on our agenda last week for tax sale. He made

8 us aware that there is a problem -- that 659 is  
9 actually his address. We have discussed that with  
10 the law department and they have sent new  
11 legislation down to us on that piece addressing the  
12 lots, the lot, the address to make sure everything  
13 is correct on those two properties. That  
14 legislation did come down for us last week or late  
15 this week and we held that for this week and I  
16 would get everything to you guys at a later time  
17 for that.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, so that's not on  
19 our agenda this evening so the address has been  
20 corrected, but since last week we became aware of  
21 the fact that some neighbors are possibly  
22 interested in trying to determine whether or not  
23 they can gain ownership of the property and I think  
24 I'd like to ask Mr. Walsh to look into that to see  
25 if that's a possibility of whether or not they have

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1 that opportunity prior to us entering into new  
2 legislation.

3 MR. SAUNDERS: I will talk to Mr.

4 Walsh when he gets here.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Let's put it on our

6 notes of interest for next week.

7 MR. SAUNDERS: The last thing I have

8 is I talked to Jack Lennox from the Scranton Sewer

9 Authority. We went through a whole slew of things

10 that we have sent down to him recently. I guess,

11 Gary, you have talked to him and Councilwoman Evans

12 has talked to him, he gave me a breakdown on a lot

13 of different things so I will go over that with

14 everybody in the back, but we discussed some other

15 things and some problems and how they are dealing

16 with problems and he did come up with, you know,

17 the understanding of how the sewer system in the

18 City of Scranton works. The Scranton Sewer

19 Authority has put together a website which is

20 [www.ScrantonSewer.org](http://www.ScrantonSewer.org). That website will answer

21 any of your problems. He said, please, there's an

22 e-mail there, do not e-mail your complaints to the

23 sewer authority, please call them. They would

24 rather, that's a more speedy process. The

25 e-mailing, they are not up-to-date on that yet, but

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1 it's very informative, I looked at a little bit of

2 it today and you will understand the sewer system

3 and the potential problems that we might have in

4 the future, so that is once again

5 [www.ScrantonSewer.Org](http://www.ScrantonSewer.Org).

6 That's all I have, Mr. President.

7 THE COURT: Thank you very much,

8 Mr. Saunders.

9 MR. SAUNDERS: Fourth order,

10 citizens participation.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. We have a

12 sign in sheet, I'd like to request that all

13 speakers please try to refrain from talks of

14 elections if we can, please, and just focus on city

15 matters and concerns. Chris Phillips?

16 MR. PHILLIPS: Good evening,

17 council. Chris Phillips, Scranton resident,

18 taxpayer and I'm here to once again discuss the

19 issue of the South Side Sports Complex which is the

20 only issue I have ever come to this podium in

21 reference to. I haven't been here in quite

22 sometime because until yesterday there was nothing  
23 really going on with the sale and, basically, much  
24 to our delight, the people of the city are still  
25 allowed to use that facility right now so that's

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1 where it stands. I want to assure everybody that  
2 my absence from the meetings was not because the  
3 fight was over, it was for basically two reasons:  
4 As I said, there was no action; and number two,  
5 because I was a candidate for political office I  
6 didn't feel that I should be using this podium to  
7 further my own agenda, so that's one of the other  
8 reasons I wasn't here.

9 Basically, what happened with the complex  
10 case yesterday is that Mr. Grecco and the SRA filed  
11 a motion to dismiss. Some of you who went to Court  
12 yesterday heard the argument and the argument is  
13 essentially that the Dedicated Property Act now  
14 does not apply to dedicated properties. I mean,  
15 that's the argument in a nutshell, okay? After  
16 speaking yesterday with Mr. Walker, our attorney,

17 who deserves many thanks once again because he has  
18 taken this case and he has essentially done it for  
19 free and he has worked his tail off for us, and  
20 after speaking with him we are prepared to litigate  
21 it to the fullest extent allowed under the law  
22 which would put us in the Pennsylvania Supreme  
23 Court if we need to and we are going to do that  
24 because we believe we're right.

25 I want to go back to July of 2003 and it was

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1 in an article that was written by Ms. Shedlock, the  
2 mayor went on a tour of the South Side Complex and  
3 the title of that newspaper article was, "The mayor  
4 cites reason for sale during tour."

5 And I went through this yesterday and I was  
6 just looking at it just to refresh my memory as I  
7 had my research out after court yesterday and I  
8 wanted to point out a couple of things that the  
9 mayor said at that time. The first thing I want to  
10 point out is that the mayor said, "The condition of  
11 the south side complex demonstrates that it cannot

12 be properly maintained by the city," and I'm glad  
13 to see that Mr. Scopelitti is here because perhaps  
14 he can answer some questions from anyone later on  
15 if someone has a question about the things that I'm  
16 about to say, the mayor never addressed the issue  
17 of why he had a sell it, that was simply his  
18 answer, "We can't maintain it."  
19 It's two years later and we are still  
20 maintaining it and we have been maintaining it. We  
21 have yet to hear from Mr. Doherty or Mr. Scopelitti  
22 or offer to have a clean up day at the South Side  
23 Complex. I came to this podium and said it no less  
24 than five times in the Summer of 2003 that we  
25 wanted to do something, never heard back.

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1 The other thing is that Mr. Doherty's own  
2 park study, his own commission study, the Scranton  
3 Comprehensive Parks and Recreational and Space Plan  
4 Study, specifically states that the complex only  
5 needs minor improvements. So that argument I  
6 believe is completely null and void, there is no

7 merit to that argument.

8 The next thing he said in that article was

9 that he was trying to focus the city's still

10 limited resources into the parks he believes gets

11 the most use while still providing for public

12 access to the complex. It sounds like a fair

13 enough statement, except you'll notice it's in the

14 plural, he said parks, and so far the money that

15 was used went for the fish pound at Nay Aug Park,

16 it didn't go for any park.

17 The other thing I wanted to say about that is

18 if we have limited resources, with all due respect

19 to Mr. Doherty, we shouldn't be handing out raises

20 to people and we shouldn't be buying landscaping if

21 we can't afford to pay our bills, okay? So the

22 usage of the money makes absolutely no sense from

23 what he said back in 2003. The next thing he said

24 was, "The beauty of the complex deal, according to

25 the mayor, is that the University will pay the City

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1 1.15 million for the complex, 1 million toward Nay

2 Aug improvements, and \$150,000 towards the  
3 construction of new softball field."  
4 Next, "The University is also pledging to  
5 give the City another \$100,000 towards a new  
6 city-owned softball field as well as build and  
7 maintain a playground and basketball court at the  
8 complex that would be deeded back to the City."  
9 That's a very interesting statement and I'm  
10 glad that I went back and looked at that because  
11 when we met with Mr. Scopelitti this past year, in  
12 March, myself and Mr. Vanosky, we were told that  
13 nothing could be done because they were waiting for  
14 the \$100,000 from the University and that the  
15 lights would cost \$70,000 at the Greenridge  
16 facility and that's an entirely different issue,  
17 but my point is this, now there is \$100,000 to  
18 build a new field. In 2003 it was \$250,000 to  
19 build a new field. Now, again, going back to the  
20 complex issue, in 1978 that facility was built for  
21 \$686,000 so what kind of facility they are going to  
22 build, and this supposed to be a new state of the  
23 art facility, the only thing that's been proposed  
24 by Mr. Scopelitti is to slap lights up at the  
25 Greenridge Teener League Field, and that's what was

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1 proposed, and it was proposed to myself and Mr.

2 Vanosky, the language specifically states that it's

3 supposed to be a regulation amateur softball

4 association field. I assure you that the

5 Greenridge Teener League is neither. Now, is that

6 my one minute? Thank you, Mr. Saunders.

7 Now, the last issue I wanted to raise

8 was that in that article the mayor also said that

9 there would be, let's see, there would input from

10 the softball players as to where the new field

11 would be. I don't remember a public hearing, I

12 don't remember a public meeting, the only time we

13 were ever contacted was we talked about Lackawanna

14 State Park, that never occurred, and then we talked

15 about the Greenridge Teener League and when we met

16 with Mr. Scopelitti, myself and Mr. Vanosky,

17 inquiring as to whether or not any of the residents

18 had been contacted, he said that they had been and,

19 you know, then there was an uprising I believe at

20 one of the Greenridge Neighborhood Association

21 meetings because the people don't want a lighted  
22 softball facility in their neighborhood and, quite  
23 frankly, I can't blame them. The complex where it  
24 sits now is perfectly situated. And, you know, the  
25 bottom line is this, that there was never a need to

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1 sell that park, there was never any reason that we  
2 had to sell that park other than the fact that we  
3 are accommodating the University, and I'll say this  
4 publicly, the University's intention for the  
5 complex may be athletic, but I'll tell you what,  
6 their intentions for the land around the South Side  
7 Complex, that's what this is all about, that's what  
8 it's been about from the beginning and that's what  
9 it will continue to be about. And if they want to  
10 say that's not the case then fine, I challenge them  
11 to say that they have no interest in any of the  
12 land around the South Side Complex. If I'm wrong,  
13 I'm wrong, but I don't believe I am.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Ms. Evans?

15 MS. EVANS: Yes, Mr. Phillips, just

16 a comment and then a few questions.

17 MR. PHILLIPS: Sure.

18 MS. EVANS: First, I can say that I  
19 personally spoke with neighbors of the Greenridge  
20 field and I can attest to what you are saying, they  
21 are very upset about the relocation of the complex  
22 potentially to their area and they raised a number  
23 of very valid concerns. I was going to meet with  
24 them publicly, but I understand from Mr. Cleveland,  
25 the vice president of the Greenridge Neighborhood

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1 Association, that he had spoken to Mr. Scopelitti  
2 who indicated that there would be no relocation of  
3 that type this year, and so that, of course, calmed  
4 their fears temporarily, but they haven't forgotten  
5 it, and it isn't something that they want in their  
6 neighborhood.

7 MR. PHILLIPS: Their fears are  
8 legitimate. I can't blame them and that's not  
9 something that we want, we don't want to impose  
10 anyone's -- I didn't mean to interrupt you, I'm

11 sorry.

12 MS. EVANS: No, that's fine. Now,  
13 have you been to the complex since it's opened this  
14 season whether umpiring or playing?

15 MS. EVANS: Actually, no, because  
16 with the election I hadn't, I hadn't umpired at all  
17 and I have been down there, but I haven't actually  
18 been out on the field or anything, I haven't  
19 umpired or anything this season.

20 MS. EVANS: But, you have been  
21 there --

22 MR. PHILLIPS: I've been there, yes.

23 MS. EVANS: I just have a few quick  
24 questions and let me preface it by saying that I  
25 had requested long, long ago that a letter to Mr.

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1 Scopelitti be sent asking for a date for the clean  
2 up.

3 MR. PHILLIPS: I remember that.

4 MS. EVANS: That I didn't receive an  
5 answer either. Now, with regard to the complex

6 itself, let's set aside a potential sale and just  
7 talk about the facility itself since it is the only  
8 lighted field. At what time are the lights turned  
9 off nightly?

10 MR. PHILLIPS: I believe it's around  
11 10:30 now all the lights are going off. It used to  
12 be around 11:00, I don't know what the issue is  
13 there, I know it's gone off. There is a safety  
14 concern with some of the people I talked about  
15 because apparently the lights have gone out in the  
16 middle of games --

17 MS. EVANS: Yes, I have been told  
18 that by players.

19 MR. PHILLIPS: -- with the ball  
20 actually in the air and the lights suddenly go  
21 out. One of the other issues about the lights is  
22 that I live in a proximity to the complex where I  
23 can see it and sometimes those lights are on all  
24 night. I got up to get the paper about two weeks  
25 ago on a Sunday, it was fairly early, maybe 6:30,

1 7:00, and the lights were still on from the night  
2 before from Saturday, and the interesting thing  
3 about that is nobody plays there on Saturday as far  
4 as I know anyway, I haven't seen anybody down  
5 there. I know none of the softball leagues  
6 participate in any games at that facility on  
7 Saturday.

8 MS. EVANS: Well, that's certainly  
9 driving up our bills.

10 MR. PHILLIPS: Absolutely. And I  
11 think that goes to the point that we were making  
12 from the beginning, the mayor is saying that we  
13 can't maintain it because it costs too much. Well,  
14 if we can't maintain it because it costs too much  
15 why we are leaving the lights on 24 hours a day? I  
16 mean, it doesn't make any sense.

17 MS. EVANS: Also, I had a report,  
18 but since you have been down there maybe you, too,  
19 can attest to this, that the bathroom facilities  
20 are in deplorable shape. Now, I know you can't go  
21 into the women's restroom, but I have heard there  
22 is writing on the wall and feces.

23 MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, I heard that as  
24 well.

25 MS. EVANS: And that in the sinks

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1 water is running constantly, again, driving up

2 another utility bill.

3 MR. PHILLIPS: Since last year. The

4 water was running last fall I do know that, I don't

5 know if it's been running since, but last fall when

6 I was umpiring down there, there was running inside

7 of the building, you could hear it.

8 MS. EVANS: Well, that's longer than

9 I thought then because the report that I received

10 from a player was that it was running, you know,

11 this year.

12 MR. PHILLIPS: Right.

13 MS. EVANS: As it's been opened.

14 MR. PHILLIPS: I just remember last

15 fall, it was going on as well last fall.

16 MS. EVANS: I see. I think that's

17 probably the conclusion of my questions because,

18 like I said, I had been approached about the

19 lights, about the bathrooms, about water.

20 MR. PHILLIPS: About the bathrooms,  
21 I also did hear the same thing about the facilities  
22 from Mrs. Vanosky who, as you know, operates two of  
23 the softball leagues and is also my coplaintiff in  
24 the lawsuit, she indicated to me that the bathrooms  
25 were in deplorable condition. I mean, I don't know

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1 what it actually entails to clean it up, I don't  
2 know how involved it is, I haven't seen them, but,  
3 I mean, I can't imagine, you know, there is no  
4 reason that there shouldn't be a public bathroom at  
5 a public facility, so.

6 MS. EVANS: Well, Mr. Scopelitti is  
7 here maybe he can explain why it's in such shape  
8 later.

9 MR. PHILLIPS: Hopefully he can shed  
10 some light on some of the issues. What really  
11 concerns me and what I really question is the fact  
12 that in 2003 there was a quarter of a million  
13 dollars available to build a new state of the art  
14 facility and since that time it's turned into

15 \$100,000 to slap up lights at the Greenridge Teener  
16 League Field.

17 MS. EVANS: But, both appear to be a  
18 pittance in terms of what it would cost to suitably  
19 replace what we already own.

20 MR. PHILLIPS: Right, it's a  
21 ten-acre park in the center of the city is what it  
22 is.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.

25 Phillips.

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1 MR. PHILLIPS: Thank you for your

2 time.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Andy Sbaraglia.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,

5 Citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian. I read in

6 the paper where they considered a dollar fee at the

7 parks a safety issue. Never in my life have I

8 heard an asinine statement like that. Is it more

9 safer for a child to play in traffic than at a

10 pool? I have never heard of this kind of thing.

11 The pools in this city were built for the children  
12 to use. Adults were allowed in, too, but mainly  
13 for children during the summer period when they are  
14 not in school, that's the reason we have most of  
15 our pools and that's the reason people are willing  
16 to pay to keep these pools open. If you were in  
17 the city, like I grew up here, the pools used to  
18 close at 5:00, the neighborhood pools, every city  
19 had a neighborhood pool. Not only that, we also  
20 had children's pools for the little kids that you  
21 can go up on -- well, people during the day can  
22 take their child to the place and use these little  
23 neighborhood pools, right? There was no lifeguards  
24 or something like that, they were there for the  
25 kids, but how they can say that it's safer for a

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1 child to swim in Roaring Brook or play in the  
2 streets rather than go to the pools. I can't  
3 believe that thinking. It's unrational and for a  
4 lousy dollar, we spent money, we throw money away,

5 but they can't think that the children deserve at  
6 least that I know people's kids -- some kids are  
7 rowdy, that's how it's always been. How many times  
8 have you went to the pool and somebody jumped on  
9 you? All of you that used the pool ran into this,  
10 this is how it is with kids, they don't think, they  
11 jump.

12 So I don't know if the mayor is going to come  
13 down and whether you've got enough votes up there  
14 to override whatever he wants to do, but at least  
15 you can try and explain to the people that it's  
16 definitely more safer for a child to go swimming  
17 under supervision than it is for them to play in  
18 the streets or swim in a creek or go to the Roaring  
19 Brook.

20 Okay, another subject here, I am going to  
21 bring up your life pictures again because it has to  
22 come before you again, okay, I got the contract  
23 this time in front of me. Okay, 3.2, the City is  
24 requesting to start this project with the same  
25 number of pictures the location and confirmation of

1 final placement of the pictures will be presented  
2 for approval of the city's governing body, mayor  
3 and city council, so it's going to come before you  
4 again and at that time you can really go into this,  
5 because it's really they might save money on going  
6 to this SE rate, rather than the other rate, but  
7 it's the maintenance of the fixtures, that's the  
8 quirks. According to this contract, they want  
9 every light bulb within the city changed every four  
10 years in them lamps, you know what's that's going  
11 to cost, because some of them are sodium I  
12 believe. Mr. Pocius, you had some work with them,  
13 what does it cost for a sodium fixture, a light  
14 bulb?

15 MR. POCIUS: I have no clue, Mr.

16 Sbaraglia.

17 MR. SBARAGLIA: It probably runs a

18 few bucks though.

19 MR. POCIUS: I would imagine.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: And to change every

21 one in the city every four years is going to cost a

22 lot, so that's where you are going to get hit is

23 with this maintenance field. This guy's contract

24 runs out in four years whether it's actually starts

25 now like you say this deal was completed or it

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1 started back in '02, 2002, when this contract was

2 put out, I don't know, that's up to you, they put

3 completion, but they have a little -- some wording

4 in there that changes things. They also have a

5 little word in there that says if this guy don't

6 want to really maintain the light he can say at any

7 time, "I don't want to bid it out," that's also in

8 the contract. So when that comes up before you are

9 going to get a contract either soon depending on

10 when they said this thing started, it's either if

11 it started now you got four years grace period, if

12 it started in '02 it will be coming up next year

13 and that's where you got to watch, is the

14 maintenance fee on these light fixtures because

15 believe me, you got to pay -- you got to save

16 enough money on the current plus the bond issue,

17 plus the maintenance for this thing to be any

18 saving to the city which I doubt it will be. When

19 they first did it I didn't think it would be and I  
20 think of it less today, but that will be in your  
21 ballpark. Thank you.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Sbaraglia.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Mike Dudek.

25 MR. DUDEK: Good evening. I'm Mike

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1 Dudek, 608 Depot Street, Scranton, Pa., I am a  
2 taxpayer in the city of Scranton, not one of the  
3 true taxpayers, but a taxpayer nevertheless. I  
4 come here tonight for a couple of different  
5 reasons, in tonight's edition of the Censorship  
6 Alliance is a letter to the editor that is directly  
7 pertinent to council business, I'm going to read  
8 the letter in it's entirety to you. "The last time  
9 my son and I were to the Wildlife Center at Nay Aug  
10 we were charged admission. I was not asked for a  
11 donation. We were stopped in the entryway by an  
12 individual seated at a table with a box and a sign  
13 that read, "Admission \$1." Not quite the same as a

14 "donation". It is difficult to believe that the  
15 people involved in moving the small menagerie to  
16 Nay Aug did not understand the long-term  
17 ramifications involved. In other words, that  
18 operating even a small zoo would cost money. One  
19 wonders what kind of promises were made at the time  
20 despite Mayor Chris Doherty's public declaration  
21 that this was "a free gift to the people of  
22 Scranton." One of our neighborhood association  
23 leaders has stated that the Doherty administration  
24 relies heavily on smoke and mirrors. No where is  
25 this more evident than the antics that have gone on

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1 in Nay Aug. Whether we are talking about the \$5  
2 pool fee or the open sewer of a fish pond or the  
3 litter strewn, constantly washed away Davis trail.  
4 Nay Aug is our Mayor's Village. Sure the city is  
5 suffering urban blight and decaying roads, sure  
6 crime is up and gangs are beginning to roam our  
7 neighborhoods, but just look at Nay Aug, just don't  
8 look too close," and the letter is signed Jeffery

9 McHale.

10 When I taught at Mid-Valley High school

11 Jeffrey McHale was one of the very best history

12 students I ever had and I didn't know he moved into

13 the city until I saw this letter, and if Mr. McHale

14 has any issue to raise he can raise them

15 intellectual -- with great intellectual background

16 with a tremendous amount of research, and any

17 issues he raises I think ought to be looked at.

18 And I'm going to ask City Council to take a look at

19 that trail, the Davis trail, revisit the fish pond

20 to see if it's as bad as Jeff says it is and also

21 to take a good look again at the zoo and see

22 exactly what's going on there, that's the first

23 piece of business that I want you to look at.

24 Thank you.

25 The second piece of business, very quickly, I

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1 think we should take a good look at the KOZ

2 involving Southern Electric, because now it doesn't

3 look like they are going to be putting their

4 headquarters here, and it looks like these people  
5 will end up with the sweetheart deal of a century  
6 if it ends up that they don't come here. I think  
7 that this is one cause that we should look at to  
8 see if it could be revoked because with all of the  
9 empty space in downtown Scranton it's really  
10 beginning to hurt the entire redevelopment of the  
11 entire downtown.

12 And the third item I want to bring up is the  
13 visual aid from the Censorship Alliance itself, I  
14 can't make this stuff up, so I'm going to have to  
15 show it to everybody here. This is one-third of a  
16 page from the Saturday paper, the random notes, the  
17 Roger Grandam column, one third of a page devoted  
18 to a council candidate that got one third of one  
19 percent of the vote that she was running for mayor  
20 in the City of Scranton. I mean, let's face it, if  
21 she had gotten 1 percent of the vote the whole page  
22 would have been devoted to Kathy McGuigan in trying  
23 to make one candidate look bad the Censorship  
24 Alliance made her look a whole lot worse.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

1 MR. DUDEK: What I think we should  
2 take a good luck at is if she is going to support  
3 the mayor her father is a retired fireman, the  
4 mayor wants to eliminate retirement benefits from  
5 retired firemen, I just can't see her being that  
6 blind or that dumb, maybe she is --

7 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. Dudek, we are  
8 going to have to stop discussions on elections.

9 MR. DUDEK: Okay, and just a point  
10 of that I wanted to just show one of the small  
11 things, the story about the Congressman only took  
12 two thirds of the same amount of space. Thank you  
13 very much.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Regina Yukowskas.

15 MS. YUKOWSKAS: Regina Yukowskas.  
16 June 2, 2005, I sent a letter to the Editor of the  
17 Scranton Times-Tribune and so far the newspaper has  
18 refused to publish the letter. I decided that in  
19 order for the people to overcome the newspaper's  
20 refusal to publish the letter I will now take my  
21 time at the podium to read the letter because I  
22 believe it is essential for the people to know it's

23 full contents. "Anyone who attends city council  
24 meetings and read the random notes column on May 21  
25 knows the column's headline was not correct. It

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1 should have read, "Did the Times Tribune overlook  
2 caldron of discontent."  
3 In addition to many other things, one reason  
4 for the people's discontent with Doherty is because  
5 his arrogance kept him from fulfilling his promise  
6 to be the sixth council member. The people  
7 understood this to mean he would make regular  
8 appearances at the city council meetings and talk  
9 to the people. He never attended one council  
10 meeting in four years. On the other hand, the  
11 Times-Tribune has an experienced reporter who  
12 attended all council meetings. She saw and heard  
13 the people's serious discontent with Doherty's  
14 policies and conduct while doing nothing for the  
15 people. Either the Times did not report the  
16 people's grievances which always occupied most of  
17 each council meeting or she did and the editor

18 struck out the discontent from her stories. I  
19 believe both because if the Times reported the  
20 stories of discontent from the council meetings  
21 they would show the true Chris Doherty not the  
22 false image the Times always tries so hard to  
23 project. In all council meetings responsible  
24 people complain that Doherty's policies did not  
25 move Scranton forward they only increased

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1 Scranton's debt while Doherty gave big business and  
2 friends free taxes and city property.  
3 Then in random notes the Times said, "You  
4 have to wonder why a mayor who has done so much to  
5 assure a brighter future for Scranton," there goes  
6 the Times again. You still didn't listen to your  
7 reporter or the people, the newspapers still  
8 supports Doherty even though his policies will  
9 cause more population and newspaper reader losses  
10 in the future. I think the Times Tribune should  
11 now explore the idea that it may be so far out of  
12 touch with the people that your random notes the

13 week of June 2 proves you people from the newspaper

14 still don't get it. Thank you.

15 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

16 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,

17 Bob Bolus. I am glad Bobby Scopelitti is here

18 tonight, this isn't to bash him, this is to thank

19 him. A few weeks ago I brought up the issue about

20 the south side complex, about the home base where

21 there was a deep rutted area, I spoke to Bob and

22 that area was corrected, you know, and the girls

23 have been able to play there and the only other

24 question they have now is, is he going to get the

25 grass cut under the bleachers and take care of the

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1 restrooms. Now, I haven't been allowed into the

2 restrooms, naturally, even though I sponsor the

3 team, but the girls did say they are really not the

4 best. But he did do the job, we did ask him, and I

5 think he did the best of his ability to accommodate

6 the girls and I want to thank him personally

7 myself.

8 At south side, I mean, there is a lot of  
9 issues there. I think what we are seeing now after  
10 the hearing that happened, I wasn't part of it, but  
11 kind of following what's going on I just believe  
12 there is going to be additional litigation now that  
13 it has gone into a different type of venue in  
14 determining who or who should have the right to  
15 decide what happens to the complex, but I think  
16 it's going to get interesting, believe me.  
17 There's was an issue in the paper, and I'm  
18 going to read this one since everybody likes  
19 reading the Times, I guess I'll read this, it said,  
20 "Pull plug on monologs." It says, "Editor, it's  
21 about time for Channel 61 and 62 to suspend  
22 broadcasting the public participation part of the  
23 Scranton City Council meetings, otherwise known as  
24 let's beat up on Mayor Doherty's show."  
25 I don't know he has ever been here, so I

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1 don't know if it was a really a show, I know Jay  
2 would be here but not Doherty. "Although free

3 speech is one thing character assassination is  
4 another. Weekly the same mean spirited cast of  
5 characters stands at the podium and makes snide and  
6 derogatory remarks under the guise of city business  
7 about Chris Doherty. These remarks are personal,  
8 unfair and vicious yet Council President Gary  
9 Dibileo allows it. As a Scranton resident,  
10 taxpayer and voter I believe that these people do  
11 not represent me or speak for me. Mayor Doherty is  
12 an intelligent, honorable man who works hard for  
13 the city. I have only respect and gratitude for  
14 all of the long needed improvements he has made in  
15 such a short time. It's appalling, especially in  
16 this political season, that Mr. Dibileo just sits  
17 there and subjects the viewers to these outrageous  
18 triads. It begs the question, if you can't run a  
19 city council meeting, what makes him think he can  
20 run a city?"

21 This is by Marita Kearney. Well, I'd like to  
22 tell her, number one, she must be one of the real  
23 people that Doherty talked about that voted for  
24 him. She definitely doesn't write or speak for  
25 me. Mr. Dibileo, I don't know where she's getting

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1 that you let us go on and on and on, when you  
2 become a political official or public officer of  
3 this city, guess what, you are going to take the  
4 criticisms of the people if you don't do your job.  
5 He sold the golf course, he is trying to blow out  
6 the south side complex, we didn't get paid for DPW  
7 complex yet, we didn't get this, we didn't get  
8 that, we got a swap sitting up there that used to  
9 be a fish pond at Nay Aug, and I could go on and on  
10 and on. So guess what, I'm glad she's right, she  
11 is not one of us because if she was one of us she  
12 would be here criticizing the issues that he hasn't  
13 completed. He has never once shown his face here  
14 as the sixth councilman and people should remember  
15 that.

16 You know, the power of 61 over the Scranton  
17 Times is immense, that why she had to write this.  
18 People get to hear and see the truth right here,  
19 it's uncensored, it's not written about or hid as  
20 the editorial staff and Roddy Gradam and everybody  
21 will else will do to change the context of

22 something. This past week or the last couple of  
23 weeks there was about my pardon and the Times  
24 wanted to write all about it and they wanted to  
25 bring out that I ran for mayor here, that was part

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1 of city business tonight. Well, I did apply for a  
2 pardon, I was turned down for the pardon in an  
3 interview. The first time I didn't get it was  
4 because I was arrested here at City Scranton  
5 voicing my free speech and we won those cases and  
6 people can speak here and Chris Phillips came here  
7 and spoke as a candidate to the people and I'm  
8 proud of where we went because I went down because  
9 I am innocent of a charge and because I didn't say  
10 I was guilty, I was denied a pardon. But the  
11 beautiful part, over the Memorial Day weekend I met  
12 with various people in New York City and  
13 interviewed the individuals that were interviewed  
14 partially by the police and the State Police of  
15 Pennsylvania and never brought this evidence  
16 forward at the time of my trial to present it to a

17 jury. Well, I'm happy to say there will be a new  
18 trial, these individuals that withheld over the  
19 last 13 years this evidence and didn't make it  
20 available will be accountable, they are high level  
21 officials, certain businessmen in the area and I  
22 will get my justice. I didn't get it in  
23 Harrisburg, but I will get it in a Court of law and  
24 if you maintain it remember one thing right as  
25 might and I will get my opportunity.

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1 There is a lot of issues that have gone out  
2 here but paying \$1 to say that the parks and the  
3 pools will be safe is about the dumbest thing I  
4 ever heard. If they paid \$100 you can't keep them  
5 safe from the drugs or anything else that goes  
6 around here, it's something that the people  
7 themselves that truly take care of the people that  
8 come in this city and give them the respect at the  
9 parks, the lifeguards and the people there. That's  
10 why we have a police force and this man wants to  
11 cut it. Thank you.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Les

13 Spindler.

14 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening,

15 council, Les Spindler.

16 MR. SPINDLER: Good evening. First

17 of all, I want to thank Mr. Saunders, the street

18 signs were put up, yesterday one went up, today

19 they finished. They cleared the fire hydrant real

20 quick and put the signs up real quick, just wish I

21 could get my sidewalks taken care of that quick, I

22 brought that up like three years ago before the

23 last council, but, anyway, I want to thank you, Mr.

24 Saunders, and whoever was responsible for putting

25 the signs up.

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1 On the pool issue, it was in the paper

2 yesterday a lot of people spoke about it, Mr.

3 Scopelitti and Ms. Healey said they are charging

4 because it's a safety issue. Well, if they read

5 the deeds, which I know they didn't, the two deeds

6 say "free and public forever."

7 What part of that don't they understand? And  
8 I agree it is a safety issue. Tuesday evening  
9 Channel 16 ran a story about -- a full story about  
10 children swimming in the gorge, diving off a  
11 90-foot cliff in the gorge. Maybe if they weren't  
12 charging a fee they would be in the pool being safe  
13 and not diving off a 90-foot cliff where they can  
14 be killed. And how were they getting up and down  
15 there? They were getting up down there through the  
16 Davis dump. Well, Mayor Doherty just made a path  
17 for them to get up and down to the gorge. It's a  
18 safety issue all right.

19 MR. DIBILEO: We have to keep  
20 comments down in the audience while there is a  
21 speaker here.

22 MR. SPINDLER: That's okay, if  
23 they're ignorant I don't know mind. If they are  
24 talking it just shows their ignorance. Last week I  
25 said about the recreational authority being

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1 appointed officials and what they're doing is

2 taxation without representation, was that looked  
3 into? Could they actually do that? That's against  
4 the United States Constitution. Does anybody have  
5 an answer?

6 MR. SAUNDERS: Can you repeat the  
7 question?

8 MR. SPINDLER: Being that the  
9 recreation authority are not the elected officials  
10 by the United States constitution they have no  
11 right doing anything with taxpayers' money. They  
12 are appointed officials, that's in the United  
13 States Constitution.

14 MR. WALSH: I can comment on that,  
15 Mr. President, if you'd like?

16 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, I wish you would,  
17 Mr. Walsh.

18 MR. WALSH: Yes. Les, in accordance  
19 with the United States Constitution we live in  
20 what's known as a representative democracy where a  
21 majority of the people will elect representatives  
22 who will make decisions for them. Now, the people  
23 in the City of Scranton elected a council, and it  
24 may not be this council but a former council, which  
25 then made a decision to delegate certain duties to

1 the recreational authority, that delegation of duty  
2 took place in accordance with the laws passed by  
3 the city being the Home Rule Charter and the  
4 administrative code and by ordinance, so because we  
5 have a representative democracy those  
6 representatives that were elected by a majority of  
7 the people acting in accordance with the laws that  
8 were passed by the representatives elected by a  
9 majority of the people saw fit to divest that power  
10 or to delegate that power to the rec authority, so  
11 for that reason it seems the rec authority can  
12 charge certain fees. I hope I have explained that  
13 good.

14 MR. SPINDLER: You are an attorney  
15 and I'm not, but I disagree with you.

16 MR. WALSH: Okay.

17 MR. SPINDLER: I don't care who gave  
18 the authority, according to the constitution they  
19 are not supposed to --

20 MR. WALSH: You won't be the first

21 one to disagree with me so that's okay.

22 MR. SPINDLER: And maybe a judge and

23 a court case will see it that way, too, and maybe

24 the park will be lost by the city and we'll see how

25 many people like Mayor Doherty then. Lastly, on

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1 the news tonight I saw Mayor Doherty being

2 interviewed by school children but he won't come

3 here and allow himself to be interviewed by adults.

4 Maybe he is only capable of answering school

5 children's questions. Thank you.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Yvonne Xanthis.

7 MS. XANTHIS: Good evening, council,

8 my name is Yvonne Xanthis, I live on Dickson Avenue

9 in Greenridge. First I'm here to thank Mrs. Evans,

10 we got our sign put up today.

11 MS. EVANS: Wonderful.

12 MS. XANTHIS: Unfortunately it has

13 the wrong times. Instead of between 7:00 p.m. and

14 7:00 a.m. no trucks, it says between 7:00 a.m. and

15 7:00 p.m., so that would make the trucks there all

16 night and all morning. I really appreciate it.

17 The only problem I have with this factory I'm

18 trying to find out how do they distinguish zoning

19 in this -- how do they interpret zoning in the

20 city? I was told by Mr. Fiorini this is light

21 industry. What does light industry mean?

22 MS. EVANS: I think that probably

23 the zoning board would have to address these issues

24 and I'm sure --

25 MS. XANTHIS: Can I speak to the

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1 zoning board?

2 MS. EVANS: Oh, sure. They have

3 monthly meetings right here in council chambers and

4 I'm sure that, you know, they or Mr. Walsh, who is

5 the zoning officer or Attorney Penetar who is their

6 solicitor would be happy to respond to your

7 questions, but I would also believe that Daron

8 would have had to appear before the zoning board

9 years ago before they built their business in that

10 location and have received the approval of the

11 zoning board to do so.

12 MS. XANTHIS: But in the city isn't

13 it public, they have to notify the residents in the

14 area if they are going to put in a major --

15 MS. EVANS: I believe so, yes.

16 MS. XANTHIS: I mean, we were not

17 told about this.

18 MS. EVANS: Well, that are may be

19 something that you want to present to the zoning

20 board as well as any questions you would have to

21 pose.

22 MS. XANTHIS: And I have -- their

23 lot is next to my pool, what's going to happen if

24 they decide to move into there now? I'm going to

25 be surrounded by block. Unless you live there you

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1 don't understand what it's like, it's terrible.

2 MS. EVANS: Oh, I believe you.

3 MR. XANTHIS: That's all I have to

4 say, and I want to thank Mr. Fiorini, he is

5 trying. He is trying.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes, he is doing a very

7 good job.

8 MS. EVANS: And Mr. Fiorini, in

9 fact, today I spoke with him about the vats that we

10 had discussed, what chemicals are contained within

11 the vats, and he was going to speak with an

12 official of Daron to obtain that answer for you and

13 your neighbors and we are both keeping an eye on

14 the situation waiting for the paving program to

15 begin and, as I stated last week, that will be

16 reinspected and the storage piles as well will be

17 reinvestigated.

18 MS. XANTHIS: We are still calling

19 the DEP. Whenever it gets windy and that's flying

20 around we are on the phone, and also the Department

21 of Health because I don't think that's a very

22 healthy situation.

23 MS. EVANS: Is the Department of

24 Health coming in?

25 MS. XANTHIS: Yes, they are.

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1 MS. EVANS: Very good.

2 MS. XANTHIS: Thank you.

3 MS. EVANS: Very good, you are

4 welcome. Lee Morgan?

5 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, council.

6 Lee Morgan. I'd like some information when it's

7 available maybe from Jay on 5-E and 5-F of the

8 agenda. I don't know if it's available at this

9 time, but when it's available I'd like to have all

10 the pertinent information on that. Is that

11 available, Jay, in your office?

12 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, I have the back

13 up for you, you can actually have it after the

14 meeting.

15 MR. MORGAN: Okay. I'd like to

16 touch on three separate issues tonight, if I may,

17 and the first issue I want to touch on is about

18 three or four months ago I asked for information on

19 all of the authorities, their debt, who they owed

20 money to, what money they had borrowed, and as

21 council is probably aware there should have been an

22 audit that took place by the 31st of May and should

23 have been published in the newspaper, and as of yet

24 that hasn't happened. Is there any excuse for

25 that?

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1 MS. EVANS: For the independent

2 audit of city council or the audit of the

3 authorities?

4 MR. MORGAN: The audit of the

5 authorities.

6 MS. EVANS: I don't believe the

7 recreation authority has yet conducted its audit.

8 As for the redevelopment authority, they were to

9 accept their audit during their June meeting,

10 that's one reason city council's independent audit

11 has been held up. I'm sure you remember I had made

12 a request that it be submitted to council this year

13 for fiscal year 2004 in May rather than the end of

14 September as had been the case last year and the

15 response I received from Mr. Rossi was that our

16 audit was being detained by the redevelopment

17 authority's audit which wouldn't be presented until

18 June. As for the other authorities, I really don't

19 know if their audits have been completed yet or

20 not, I haven't received any of that information

21 like you.

22 MR. MORGAN: Well, don't you think

23 they are showing a total disregard for the public

24 when they don't meet time lines that are set in

25 law.

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1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2 MR. MORGAN: Don't you think it's a

3 problem, I mean, like I've come here before and I

4 said it's time to start using the power of subpoena

5 and I firmly still believe that and I think that we

6 can't really turn the city around until the

7 authorities, and I don't want to pick on the mayor,

8 but he appoints the authorities I assume, so if

9 they're his minions and they are working at his

10 direction and they have no regard for us I think we

11 have a problem and I think if he is their boss it's

12 time for him to step forward and take credit for

13 their inaction. I mean, it's only common sense

14 that there is something seriously wrong here and if

15 the mayor is the boss then he has got to get to  
16 these people and tell them, "Look at, the law is  
17 this, you are not meeting the law and you are  
18 showing a flagrant abuse of your authority and I  
19 can see that, and I'm not trying to be -- you know,  
20 work council over, but you see council totally  
21 unwilling to use it's vested power of subpoena to  
22 control the situation, so everybody is stepping  
23 back and saying, "Well, I hate to see that happen,  
24 I hate to use that power, but until council uses  
25 the power at hand then what relief are we going to

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1 get.

2 MS. EVANS: Mr. Morgan, I'm sorry to  
3 interrupt, but Jay Saunders just presented me with  
4 the 2004 audit report from the Scranton  
5 Redevelopment Authority, so I do now have that.  
6 MR. MORGAN: The other thing I'd  
7 like to touch on is I went to the hearing in front  
8 of Judge Walsh about the South Side Sports  
9 Complex. I'm going to tell you in my own opinion

10 of what took place there, I'm not very impressed by  
11 the judge's handling of the case, he didn't know  
12 what courtroom he was going to be in, it was just  
13 in my opinion I think that when this judge hands  
14 down his ruling I think it's already been  
15 predecided and what's Mr. Grecco say, well, he  
16 doesn't really know how much money was spent in the  
17 complex by the state and he doesn't know how much  
18 money the city is going to be liable for so how can  
19 we transfer a property when we don't know what we  
20 are going to be penalized and who knows what HUD is  
21 going to want and since when -- I think the  
22 ballpark is ten acres, what do you took ten acres  
23 of land in the center of the city and sell to a  
24 nonprofit organization for that kind of money and  
25 basically steal it off the residents who don't want

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1 it to happen, and I'd like to say that we are not  
2 sleeping anymore and we don't need the Scranton  
3 Times to print anything for us because you know  
4 what if this judge rules against us we are not

5 going to quit we are going to keep going, we are  
6 not going to walk away from this fight and as long  
7 as we can we are going to move forward because you  
8 know something? Sometimes you can't walk away from  
9 a fight and this one is one we are not going to  
10 walk away from and I have talked to the editor of  
11 the Scranton Times and he personally told me that  
12 he doesn't care what we think, the only agenda he  
13 cares about is what the Lynotts want, and you know  
14 what, that's not acceptable to us because this is  
15 our city and we know what we want, okay?  
16 And the last thing I have is that the Jackson  
17 Street Park is in west side, they have a state park  
18 and various other things and they are there from  
19 3:00 to 8:30 and I just like to say that, you know,  
20 waiting for an enhanced playground program that  
21 they are available from 3:00 to 8:30, so let's use  
22 their facility, and hopefully we will bring  
23 something else on line and I'd just like to say to  
24 all Scrantonians and people outside of the city  
25 don't give up because you know what, we are not

1 going to roll over. Thank you.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.

3 Morgan. Joanne Williams.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening,

5 council.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

7 MS. WILLIAMS: Joanne Williams, city

8 resident. Over the last several weeks I have heard

9 a lot of rhetoric about public safety in the City

10 of Scranton. Mr. Dibileo and other members of the

11 city council have put down the mayor for what they

12 believe to be a lack of police protection in the

13 city. I don't think we have inadequate police, but

14 I do have a couple of questions for council that I

15 would appreciate answers to. Mr. Dibileo, because

16 I don't know myself, okay, can you tell me how many

17 shifts the police department currently has?

18 MR. DIBILEO: Three.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Three, okay, that was

20 good. Secondly -- now --

21 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me, one second.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: I would appreciate

23 that.

24 MR. DIBILEO: Let me just remind all  
25 people in the audience that we have to keep all

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1 noise down please while there is speaker at the  
2 podium. Thank you.

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr.

4 Dibileo.

5 MR. DIBILEO: You are welcome.

6 MS. WILLIAMS: Secondly, how many

7 officers are on each shift?

8 MR. DIBILEO: Well, the way I

9 understand it, it's an equal amount of officers on

10 each shift.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: But do you know a

12 number?

13 MR. DIBILEO: I'm not exactly sure

14 what that number is?

15 MS. WILLIAMS: So, you don't know

16 the number of the unassigned.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Ideally there would

18 be 12 I think.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Twelve?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: That's ideally. It

21 very seldom happens.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Uniformed officers

24 I'm talking about.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, I

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1 appreciate that.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Why do we have --

3 it's something that I have been watching, you know,

4 about the public safety and I have a few comments

5 here, why do we have more police officers assigned

6 to a lower crime time period? Don't you think it

7 would be better to have more officers from the

8 ranks assigned to a higher crime time?

9 MR. DIBILEO: Well, that's a good

10 question. Actually, we had a public caucus meeting

11 just before this meeting and members of the South

12 Side Neighborhood Association were thinking in

13 those same terms, however, they said just recently

14 they had crime occurring 9:00 in the morning, 7:00  
15 in the morning, 12:00 noon, so it's occurring  
16 pretty much around the clock these days.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Well --

18 MR. DIBILEO: But, yeah, it could be  
19 possible that more incidents occurred late at  
20 night.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: Let me ask you this,  
22 then why do we have the same number of police  
23 assigned to the 8:00 a.m. shift on Sunday and 8:00  
24 p.m. shift on Saturday night?

25 MR. DIBILEO: I'm not certain of the

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1 answer to that.

2 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay, well then let  
3 me ask you this, would you, and I know Mrs. Evans  
4 and Mr. Courtright --

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's in their  
6 contract.

7 MS. EVANS: It's the manning clause.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm speaking.

9 MS. EVANS: I was only trying to

10 answer --

11 MS. WILLIAMS: I understand, I

12 understand, I just want to get my point across,

13 okay? I'm asking Mr. Dibileo and Mrs. Evans and

14 Mr. Courtright would you support the assignment of

15 more police officers to the higher crime shifts by

16 reducing the number of police officers assigned to

17 the lower crime times?

18 MR. DIBILEO: I would be absolutely

19 in favor of it if that was going to be certain to

20 cut down on crime and if it is I would be totally

21 in favor of it.

22 MS. EVANS: I would be in favor of

23 it also if I could get some type of agreement from

24 the criminal element whereby they agree to comply

25 that during those hours they will --

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1 MS. WILLIAMS: That's uncalled for.

2 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Williams, I'm not

3 being facetious here, I'm just very concerned

4 because I know --

5 MS. WILLIAMS: But, Mrs. Evans --

6 MS. EVANS: -- that crime occurs

7 around the clock.

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Ms. Evans, I would

9 wait for fifth order for you --

10 MR. DIBILEO: Mrs. Williams --

11 MS. EVANS: I'm just answering the

12 question, that's all.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: All right, I don't

14 want to be badgered up here, okay? I'm asking

15 questions.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Mrs. Williams, you

17 asked the questions, Ms. Evans is answering the

18 question.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: May I continue?

20 MR. DIBILEO: The time is not being

21 taken from your time?

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, okay, may I

23 continue, okay?

24 MR. DIBILEO: Are you finished, Mrs.

25 Evans?

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1 MS. EVANS: Well, I was just going  
2 to say, you know, to finish the statement that if  
3 we could get that agreement then I think it would  
4 be ideal to schedule our police officers at that  
5 time, but, unfortunately, life doesn't work that  
6 way and crime doesn't work that way and  
7 particularly in Scranton it doesn't seem to be  
8 working that way over at least the last year with  
9 the number of bank robberies we have seen during  
10 the daytime hours, armed hold-ups and etcetera,  
11 murders.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, I  
13 understand.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Would you like me  
15 to answer that?

16 MS. WILLIAMS: That's okay, Mr.  
17 Courtright.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: I thought you asked  
19 the three of us and --

20 MS. WILLIAMS: That's okay.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: And if you want me  
22 to I will.

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, okay.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: I would -- you

25 know, they used to have an to eight to four shift

49

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1 at one time because of what you are talking about

2 they felt that was high crime and for some reason

3 they got rid of that shift, I'm not quite sure

4 why. I think I might support -- the only thing

5 that scares me is criminals are pretty smart and if

6 they know we are manned lower at any one particular

7 time and I think that's when their activity is

8 going to take place. I mean, they are pretty

9 sharp, but I would be open to it, I'd like to see

10 what they would have to and if they did do anything

11 I'd like to see them do it on a trial basis, see if

12 it works out, you know. If they are going to, you

13 know, man it more on one particular shift and that

14 seems successful then let's go for it, but on a

15 trial basis I would --

16 MS. WILLIAMS: You would be

17 interested in that?

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: On a trial basis,  
19 absolutely.

20 MR. DIBILEO: Mrs. Williams, I have  
21 one basis for you, do you think we would be against  
22 that?

23 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm just asking you  
24 questions.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

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1 MS. WILLIAMS: That's all I'm asking  
2 you, Mr. Dibileo.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Please proceed.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay, then if I'm  
5 correct with this, all three of you, you do support  
6 the police union, we do know that; am I correct?

7 Do you support the police union?

8 MR. DIBILEO: We support police and  
9 fire and all workers.

10 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, I'm sure you  
11 do, I'm asking the police union.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: What do you mean

13 the union?

14 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, the police

15 union.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Do we give money to

17 them or --

18 MS. WILLIAMS: No, do you stand

19 behind what they come up and speak about?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: I stand behind some

21 individuals that come up if they are right.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: It seems like I'm not

23 getting an answer to that.

24 MR. DIBILEO: The answer is, no, to

25 the union part, to police it's yes.

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1 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay, then you said

2 you wanted some change, but would you use your

3 influence over them to have these changes

4 instituted, Mr. Courtright?

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't know that I

6 have any influence, if I did and I thought it was a

7 good idea I would certainly go to them and say I

8 believe it's a good idea.

9 MS. EVANS: If I could just add

10 something though, there isn't really any influence

11 that this council could have over the police union

12 or any other because those negotiations are not

13 conducted between them and us. It's rather a

14 matter for the mayor and his negotiating team and

15 the union spokesperson or president and their

16 negotiation team, but I just wanted to say that I

17 support all city workers that provide public

18 services to the people of the City of Scranton,

19 particularly those who put their lives in the line

20 of danger each day for our benefit. I appreciate

21 that very much.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, I do too. I do

23 too, Ms. Evans, I don't want you to think that I

24 don't.

25 MS. EVANS: Oh, I agree, I believe

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1 you do.

2 MR. DIBILEO: I'm sorry. I'm

3 sorry. Go ahead.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: May I continue, Mr.

5 Dibileo?

6 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

7 MS. WILLIAMS: I'd just like to end

8 with, Mr. Dibileo, you have stated that you believe

9 we need more police officers on the force?

10 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: How do you plan on

12 paying for the additional officers?

13 MR. DIBILEO: Well, number one, by

14 applying for every grant that's possible, something

15 we are not doing right now. The current recovery

16 plan does not allow for applying of police grants,

17 as far as I know, and what I would do is apply for

18 every grant possible once we determine we could not

19 get any further grants then it would have to be

20 looked at to keep our community safe, we possibly

21 would have to put more police on the streets and

22 pay for them.

23 MS. WILLIAMS: All right. Well,

24 then you stated in the past I think that you may

25 use grants to pay for officers, I think you have

1 stated that in the past, too; am I correct? You  
2 have stated that before?

3 MR. DIBILEO: We'll we're paying for  
4 them now, yes.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: But if that is -- if  
6 that's the plan then how would you pay for the  
7 additional police officers when the grants run out  
8 and the obligation must be then borne by the  
9 taxpayers?

10 MR. DIBILEO: Well, first of all  
11 what I would do is prioritize things differently.  
12 I would reduce the number of consultants we have,  
13 and I know you are not asking about consultants,  
14 but that's what I would do. I would reduce the  
15 number of consultants and put that right into  
16 public safety.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, I'm asking you,  
18 I mean, I'm asking about police officers, I know  
19 what you are saying about that, but, you know, I  
20 really don't feel I got -- I got some answers to my  
21 questions, but I don't really feel I got what I

22 really would need to take back so I could  
23 understand it, so possibly I may be back to answer  
24 them again. Also in closing I just want to say --  
25 MR. DIBILEO: I'm sorry.

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1 MS. WILLIAMS: See, this, and I'm  
2 going to say it very calmly --  
3 MR. DIBILEO: Hold on. That was Mr.  
4 Williams back there and he caught himself. Okay,  
5 Jim?  
6 MS. WILLIAMS: You know, I see that  
7 this evening you gaveled a few of us over there and  
8 then you let other people sit down, I was told to  
9 sit down, Mr. Dibileo. I have every right to be  
10 here --  
11 MR. DIBILEO: Of course you do. Of  
12 course you do.  
13 MS WILLIAMS: But, Mr. Dibileo, I'm  
14 not -- I'm going to very be calm about this, you  
15 know. When I get up here, see --  
16 MR. DIBILEO: No, Jim, I'll

17 determine when her time is up. We were speaking up  
18 here, that's Jimmy Stuckard. Jim, Mrs. Williams is  
19 talking now, she has the floor. And you are  
20 welcome to be here and to say whatever you want to.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: I have my right to my  
22 freedom of speech, too.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Absolutely.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: And I will be back  
25 every week with something different. They don't

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1 bother me, but I think it's so inappropriate and I  
2 hear all of the time from many people, many people  
3 stop me and wonder why this goes on when I get up  
4 here to speak.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Well, if anybody in  
6 the future should say anything while you are at the  
7 podium I will do everything in my power to stop  
8 them from speaking.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, we will just  
10 have to wait and see. Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. Thank you.

12 Thank you, Mrs. Williams.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: You are welcome.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Charlie Newcomb,

15 Senior or Junior?

16 MR. NEWCOMB: Senior. Good evening,

17 council.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Excuse me, Charlie.

19 There is someone at the podium and if everyone

20 would keep their comments down. Thank you.

21 MR. NEWCOMB, SR.: I can answer a

22 question that -- and I appreciate Mrs. Williams

23 coming up here, too, and everybody coming up here

24 and speaking with what they feel, but I can answer

25 one question on how would you pay for the extra

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1 police and it's very simple, the answer is if you

2 become the mayor I'm sure you will not have a high

3 priced administration like he has with millions of

4 dollars in raises and that would simply be able to

5 put more police on the street because the

6 administration would be paid comparably to what

7 they should be paid for their salaries. Some of  
8 these people got \$10,000 raises in this  
9 administration and that took away from a lot of our  
10 taxpayers' dollars.

11 I would like to also talk about in the  
12 Scranton Times right before the election, second  
13 page, full story, that everybody knows about the  
14 website that was out there that the headline said  
15 that a threat was made on the mayor's life, if you  
16 remember that. Now, that is a serious charge and  
17 it was a person that was supposed to be on AOL that  
18 did it. Now, since then this website is gone or  
19 when it was there you had to get on, put your name  
20 on, I believe this was the biggest political stunt,  
21 publicity stunt since the war of the worlds. If  
22 this threat was made to what was supposed to have  
23 been said could anybody answer if there has been an  
24 arrest made yet? This happened up where I work,  
25 somebody went on one of our websites and posted

57

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1 something under a fictitious name, it was an AOL

2 user, they had that person arrested, handcuffed and  
3 everything within four days. Very easy to get  
4 their name because he made a specific threat to an  
5 organization, so I believe that this was a good way  
6 to silence the people that were getting on there  
7 and learning a lot about the way the city is run,  
8 the way that the mayor runs his business, the way  
9 that some of these attorneys make their money,  
10 South Side complex stories, and one thing I do have  
11 to say is I went on that website, I read it quite a  
12 bit, when I ever posted anything I signed my name  
13 to it because I don't take too much credibility in  
14 things that people post that they don't sign their  
15 names to.

16 Another thing I would like to take into  
17 consideration, especially if the lawyers are  
18 listening to this, it was in the paper that we had  
19 our mechanic that I guess got when he was fired for  
20 the residency clause back in 1997 and I guess he  
21 was awarded some money, but he chose not to come  
22 back because he got another job for higher pay and  
23 I believe there are three policeman that were going  
24 to be given the right now to go to trial because  
25 the judge felt that I guess because this guy won

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1 that there was enough credibility that they are  
2 going to trial, too, and I'll tell you what, if  
3 anybody read the residency clause and knows about  
4 the residency, you either live in the city or you  
5 don't work here, it's as simple as that. So if the  
6 lawyers are listening for these gentlemen and the  
7 taxpayers, we are going to get it again, there is  
8 two words I have to say for this case and those  
9 words are George Parker. He lives in Moscow, takes  
10 home a city vehicle and city council, last council,  
11 not this one, gave him a waiver to do so and the  
12 answer was because, "Well, he has a degree and we  
13 are getting two for the price of one."  
14 That doesn't justify the ordinance. The  
15 ordinance says if you don't live in the city you  
16 are not going to be an employee here, so I'm sure  
17 that these policeman are going to get -- win their  
18 case just like this mechanic did and the taxpayers  
19 are going to have to pay again, but we should  
20 not -- this should not be -- I don't know care if

21 the guy is a rocket scientist, there is 67,000  
22 people that live in the City of Scranton, you are  
23 not going to tell me that one of them 76,000 do not  
24 have the same degree that Mr. Parker has because  
25 I'm sure that there is.

59

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1 One more thing like Mr. Dudek read, I have  
2 the thing in my pocket about the gentleman that  
3 said that he went to Nay Aug Park and he did have  
4 to pay a dollar donation and it wasn't called a fee  
5 and I'm sure, Mr. Courtright, you made a comment a  
6 couple of weeks ago that you went up to Nay Aug and  
7 you assured the people that there wasn't a donation  
8 and then the mayor was on there saying that, you  
9 know, the animals are going to say and the city,  
10 you know, will help feed these animals, but the  
11 only thing that I have to say about the animal  
12 situation is this, the taxpayers are burdened in  
13 this city as it is. Now, I'm sure she is not  
14 paying a fee, the lady that owns them animals, to  
15 us to store them up there in Nay Aug. She is given

16 the facility, hopefully people give the donations  
17 with enough money to pay for them, but I brought it  
18 up at the meeting here once and somebody when we  
19 brought up about televisions being up there for --  
20 it was in the paper for the monkeys to watch  
21 television because they were bored and what did  
22 come out I believe it was Mrs. Miller, the one that  
23 owns the animals, and it came out at this podium  
24 that she paid for the televisions for these monkeys  
25 to watch television. So my answer is this,

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1 obviously people that own those kind of animals,  
2 whether you adopt them or whatever, and you buy  
3 televisions for them to watch, you are not too  
4 financially bad, you should be pretty well off if  
5 you have the time to do these things so my answer  
6 is before the taxpayers of this city have to get  
7 burdened with another cost if she could pay for the  
8 animals to watch TV, well, then she should have the  
9 money to feed them, too. Thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Charlie

11 Newcomb, Jr.

12 MR. NEWCOMB, JR: Good evening,  
13 council. First, I too attended the hearing  
14 yesterday morning on the south side complex. First  
15 as a taxpayer I want to thank Attorney Paul Walker  
16 for all that he has done for the people of  
17 Scranton. He is fighting for something that the  
18 majority of us believe in. Next, honestly I have  
19 to say that I have many, many, many, patients and  
20 yesterday morning it took all of them to control  
21 myself to sit there and listen to Mr. Grecco, our  
22 \$100,000 tax paid lawyer, tell the Court how he  
23 wants to get rid of this park for the city. To  
24 know that this man has been paid almost \$400,000  
25 plus of our money and he is standing there selling

61

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1 our park is vomitus, to say the least. I truly  
2 hope and I pray that come November 8 Mr. Grecco is  
3 done being paid out of my pocket to sell our  
4 assets, and we all know what has to be done to stop  
5 this.

6 I also know many people lately have been  
7 thinking about switching to the satellite to save  
8 money because of Adelphia's prices that are totally  
9 out of control. I myself switched to the ComCast  
10 package it's called that Adelphia cable has, and  
11 this package is only \$11.50 but it includes this  
12 Channel 61 and for some people like Mr. Bolus read  
13 the letter to the editor, if that woman doesn't  
14 like what we have to say here at the meeting I'm  
15 truly sorry, but if I'm, again, and I said this  
16 before, if I'm flipping through the channel and I  
17 see something I don't like I keep on going, so  
18 that's my answer to what I have to say to her. The  
19 basic package for this ComCast cable is still  
20 cheaper combined with the satellite than Adelphia's  
21 basic package, so I don't know their contract is  
22 up, but I'll be the first one to tell you that I  
23 will be fighting to make sure that they don't get a  
24 contract in the city again. I asked last week  
25 where the pothole patching machine was, did we find

1 out where that was?

2 MR. SAUNDERS: No, not yet.

3 MR. NEWCOMB, JR.: In yesterday's

4 paper, front page of course, it was in the paper

5 that the reason that the city is charging a fee is

6 to maintain order at the city pools. First,

7 amazingly, we can find four years worth of police

8 reports, but some of us can't find years of

9 financial records so that kind of stood out at me

10 there as a little bit of a surprise, and I just

11 don't understand how charging a fee is maintaining

12 order. Maybe if you look at the police reports the

13 numbers are down and as we all know at a meeting

14 that occurred last year, I believe it was around

15 this time, one of the individuals that was asked in

16 the newspaper about the fee made a very derogatory

17 statement as to the reason why we have to charge

18 this fee, so I firmly believe after hearing this

19 that that is the reason why this city wants to

20 charge a fee, it's been stated before as ruffraff,

21 I won't use the derogatory statement that this

22 woman said because I find it offensive to many,

23 many people and also in this past article it said

24 that the lifeguards are going to pick out the

25 people that come there all the time and maybe if

63

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1 they can't afford to pay the money that they will  
2 be able to get right in. Well, first of all, I  
3 believe that the lifeguards should do what  
4 lifeguards are supposed to do and what they do very  
5 well there because we have seen stories of how they  
6 have saved lives at Nay Aug pool, and to know that,  
7 and this is my opinion, that the reason, the  
8 indirect reason that whether it's a dollar, \$3 or  
9 \$5 is to control the children that come in there  
10 these people should hold their heads down in  
11 shame. My wife and I were fortunate enough to  
12 included as middle class in this city, it's not  
13 fair that some children that go to the pool are  
14 going to be discriminated against because of the  
15 financial difficulties of their parents, they  
16 shouldn't have to be embarrassed to tell the people  
17 when they get to the pool that they don't have the  
18 money to get in. Think to yourself as a child if  
19 you had financial difficulties and tell somebody

20 that, let alone the embarrassment that it takes to  
21 stand here but just think what the other kids will  
22 have to say to you. I think all of these people  
23 that think the reason that we should hold this fee  
24 is to keep the quote/unquote riffraff out as was  
25 said at the recreation authority meeting shouldn't

64

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1 show their face in public. Thank you.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. John

3 Cowley.

4 MR. COWLEY: Good evening, city

5 council.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

7 MR. COWLEY: My name is John Cowley

8 and I have come to address you tonight as a

9 resident of the City of Scranton, and as the parent

10 of four children and as a businessman in the City

11 of Scranton, and I'd like to address an issue

12 that's been discussed at virtually every single

13 council meeting over the past years and that is

14 pool fees. I'd like to tell you a couple of short

15 stories and then try to bring them together to  
16 present a point of view that you may or may not  
17 have considered.

18 Firstly, I have a client, a 91-year-old woman  
19 who lived her entire life alone in North Scranton.  
20 She lived in the same house she was borne in,  
21 retired 91 years initially, she shared her home  
22 with her procedure up until the time that he died  
23 several years ago. When she came to see me her  
24 sole sore of income was social security. She was  
25 living then and has been living for sometime on

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1 just \$410 a month. All her working life she had  
2 supported herself by cleaning houses, cleaning  
3 churches and cleaning businesses. She was fiercely  
4 independent and she resisted each and every attempt  
5 by any social service agency to move her to what  
6 they thought what might be to her benefit. With a  
7 little bit of effort I was able to arrange for her  
8 to receive supplemental social security of an  
9 additional \$173.40 a month thereby making her total

10 monthly income \$592.40. That's right, my client,  
11 this 91 year old woman, your constituent was living  
12 on just \$592.40 a month. Even more amazing is the  
13 fact that the real estate taxes on her very modest  
14 home were approximately \$1,100 a year. Every year  
15 then it took two full months of all of her income  
16 just to pay her real estate tax bill. Somehow, and  
17 I don't know how, she managed it, but I wonder how  
18 many other seniors might be in the same shoes. How  
19 many might be just getting by or worst yet, how  
20 many might be worse off. All of you and I know  
21 that the City of Scranton is filled with senior  
22 citizens and many of them are alone.  
23 Secondly, I have a neighbor and a very good  
24 friend who has a swimming pool in his backyard. I  
25 can surely tell you that on more than one occasion

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1 it's crossed my mind of what a major expense and  
2 tremendous amount of work it takes even to operate  
3 a small backyard pool. My friend and his wife are  
4 constantly working around the pool. They have to

5 clean it, they are testing the water, they are  
6 adding chemicals, they are heating the water. They  
7 are adding more water or pumping out excess water.  
8 The liner requires attention, the tiles and the  
9 coping require maintenance and in the winter it has  
10 to be covered and that's to say nothing about the  
11 cost of insurance or the special fencing it has to  
12 surround the pool. My friend is on constant guard  
13 with no small children wandering in the pool while  
14 it's unattended. Obviously, my friend doesn't  
15 employ lifeguards. Ladies and gentlemen, a  
16 swimming pool is a major expense. Six swimming  
17 pools represent some serious numbers.  
18 Thirdly, I recently attended the high school  
19 graduation of my daughter Molly at Scranton Prep.  
20 While at Prep Molly was an excellent student and  
21 she turned out to be an excellent athlete.  
22 Councilman Bill Courtright also attended that same  
23 graduation. His son Patrick, a friend of my  
24 daughter, also graduated. Patrick I believe  
25 graduated as member of the National Honor Society.

1 Needless to say, we are very proud of both of our  
2 children. The point that I want to make is that  
3 Molly and Patrick didn't achieve the honors that  
4 they gained in high school because anything was  
5 given to them. To receive the honors they received  
6 it took a tremendous amount of hard work, effort,  
7 and sacrifice. Hard work and sacrifice not only by  
8 the kids but by the parents. Both Councilman  
9 Courtright and myself have taught our kids that if  
10 they want nice things, it comes with hard work.  
11 There is nothing wrong with working hard. A very  
12 good and very successful friend of mine, in fact,  
13 has a sign hanging in his office and it says, "Work  
14 hard, it pays off."  
15 For our kids, Thank God, the hard work did  
16 pay off. But how does this all come together to  
17 have anything to do with pool fees you might ask?  
18 Well, you see my position is that there should be  
19 fees at our pools. I don't think that there is  
20 anything wrong with teaching our children that if  
21 they want nice things they have to work for them.  
22 I don't believe there is an entitlement to swim at  
23 first rate facilities free of charge for anyone. I

24 believe we should be teaching our kids there is no  
25 such thing as a free lunch. I don't know of anyone

68

1 who has become successful and achieved and  
2 maintained their success because of things that  
3 have been given to them. I'm of the opinion that  
4 90 percent of the users of the city pools have the  
5 ability to earn \$1 to swim for a day. They can cut  
6 grass, they can trim bushes, they can clean up  
7 litter, they can have lemonade stands, they can  
8 babysit, they can take out my 91-year-old  
9 neighbor's garbage cans. They can pick up her  
10 groceries, surely, they can do one a whole lot more  
11 to earn a dollar to swim than that little old  
12 little lady, because if they don't pay, believe me  
13 it will fall to that little old ladies real estate  
14 taxes to pay that bill. Listen, I know this is an  
15 election year, and I know it's the position of  
16 chairman Dibileo that there should be no pool fees  
17 and I also know that it's the position of Mayor  
18 Doherty that there should be pool fees. I happen

19 to agree with the mayor. Years ago there was a  
20 famous presidential election where a promise was  
21 made for a chicken in every pot. At that time it  
22 seemed like a good idea, most people didn't have a  
23 chicken and even fewer had the pot. People,  
24 however, that really thought that it was a great  
25 idea were the chicken farmers and the chicken

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1 breeders, you see, they saw this issue from a  
2 completely different point of view. What I'm  
3 asking is that you change your point of view on  
4 this issue. I'm asking that you support pool fees,  
5 that you help the children of the city of Scranton  
6 and the parents of those children to understand the  
7 value of hard work, that you help them to learn  
8 that nice things come but at a price and that there  
9 are no free lunches because if you don't support  
10 pool fees that free lunch will come from the real  
11 estate tax bill of my 91 year old client and  
12 hundreds, maybe thousands like her, and that would  
13 be a shame. Thank you very much.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Jim

15 Stuckard.

16 MR. STUCKARD: Hello. We had a

17 thing today, it rained all day and, number one, we

18 need a drain going down our alley right off Moosic

19 Street on each corner we have water going in the

20 electric plant, the electric grid, underneath the

21 lid there's a plant there like with wires and stuff

22 and right on our sidewalk there is water going in

23 the thing, the lid, underneath the lid, so we need

24 two drains on each side on each side of our alley.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, can you look into

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1 that for Jimmy?

2 MR. DIBILEO: All right, Jimmy.

3 MR. STUCKARD: Okay. Another thing,

4 we didn't get our lines put in yet, it was a nice

5 day a couple of days we had some nice weather and

6 we didn't get our lines on is a street we got the

7 line going down we didn't gets the cross lines.

8 MR. DIBILEO: Jay, check on the

9 crossing there.

10 MR. STUCKARD: I talked to a guy

11 last week about that. Some guy come over my house

12 this morning, I don't know who he was, he knows

13 you, Jay, not Jay, Mr. Dibileo, he knows you, he

14 said -- well, my scooter he said to me is in the

15 back room.

16 MR. DIBILEO: The back room? Which

17 back room?

18 MR. STUCKARD: I don't know. That's

19 what he said this morning. He was at my house and

20 I said "Bring it up."

21 MR. DIBILEO: All right. Jay, is it

22 in your back room?

23 MR. SAUNDERS: No, it's not in my

24 back room.

25 MR. STUCKARD: And I had a weed

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1 whacker on my back porch, I talked to the police

2 about it and it was a good weed whacker, Craftsman,

3 one of the best I ever had, somebody just came and

4 stole it off my back porch.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Did you report it

6 the police, Jim?

7 MR. STUCKARD: Yeah. Yeah. Court.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'm sure they will

9 look for it for you.

10 MR. STUCKARD: And them new cars we

11 got our nice.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Very good.

13 MR. STUCKARD: And they are up there

14 breaking their backs, the cops are, and I don't

15 like people back and go against them, I don't like

16 that and they are helping me out.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Okay, Jim, we are

18 going to look into the lines on the street and the

19 first problem that you told us about. Thank you

20 very much.

21 MR. STUCKARD: Yeah and getting our

22 garbage, we have a new landlord now, his name is

23 Jerry, nice guy, our landlord Joe Murray don't have

24 it no more.

25 MR. DIBILEO: I'm sure Jerry takes

1 good care of you.

2 MR. STUCKARD: Yeah.

3 MR. DIBILEO: Okay. JP Davis?

4 MR. DAVIS: Salam Alechum. It's

5 been a tough week. I start off last week by going

6 to the recreation authority, I was very displaced,

7 very displeased with what I heard. I never heard

8 of an annual meeting without a chairman being

9 there. It was very unusual. It showed disrespect

10 to the people that were there and it showed

11 disrespect to his own group I thought.

12 Number two, I picked up Monday's paper and on

13 a page of the local it said, "Violence and arrest

14 not routine in school, but not unusual either."

15 It seems as though we are failing in a couple

16 of points here. We are failing the lines on the

17 street, now, I have been at this for months and

18 months and I know you must be tired of hearing me

19 talk about the lines being needed on the streets

20 and now we find that our kids are also in need of

21 something that we are not giving them. Either our

22 school system is failing or our administration of

23 the schools is failing or perhaps we are  
24 overpolicing or I don't know what it is, but I  
25 don't know any time that an intermediate school has

73

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1 104 violent incidents and 32 arrests in one year's  
2 time. We are losing. We are missing something and  
3 it's not good. We are breeding people for the  
4 Lackawanna County Prison System. That's the  
5 intermediate school. If you go to Scranton High  
6 School there was 45 violent incidents and 43  
7 arrests so now you see that per incident we are  
8 arresting more as they get older which means the  
9 possibility of those kids falling through the  
10 cracks who are not being citizens, not making the  
11 money to go to parks or support the children or  
12 whatever it might be, that's one whole section of  
13 the population that we are just letting go or just  
14 not fixing it properly. I know that you should  
15 pull themselves up by their bootstraps and if you  
16 want to work and get work, but you know what, kids  
17 who don't come from affluent backgrounds do not

18 have that many possibilities of work in Scranton.  
19 I know of 100 kids that want to work this summer.  
20 I know of a group called Career Links that has  
21 exactly 50 positions available and not -- the 100  
22 kids that I know are from section and this is going  
23 to encompass a whole county, that they have to  
24 qualify, they have to qualify as far as their  
25 income is concerned. We are not doing -- Scranton

74

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1 as a city has still not created a CETA program, I  
2 don't know why and, please, I'm not asking you to  
3 change anything, I know this is out of your  
4 bailiwick, I know I'm speaking of things -- I'm  
5 speaking of a problem that exists and I don't have  
6 an answer for it.  
7 MS. EVANS: I might have one, it  
8 doesn't answer everything, but the Scranton Housing  
9 Authority each summer hires, first, college  
10 students and that probably begins, oh, I would  
11 think this May because they are the first ones out  
12 for the summer and they work until approximately

13 the Fourth of July, thereafter, there is a waive of  
14 hirings for high school students, and it's a very,  
15 very, I think, good job and what I'm hoping is that  
16 I'm going to see this advertised in the newspaper  
17 for everybody because, you know, historically if  
18 you look back on a lot of those jobs through -- or  
19 if I do anyway, maybe the last 20 years they often  
20 times seem to go to some individuals who really,  
21 you know, not that any child doesn't need extra  
22 money, but they often seem to go some young people  
23 who are from better -- well, let's say more  
24 affluent families and I think that this program  
25 could possibly, you know --

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1 MR. DAVIS: Do you think it's going

2 to change?

3 MS. EVANS: Pardon me?

4 MS. DAVIS: You think it's going to

5 change this year?

6 MS. EVANS: Well, I'm hoping that

7 it's going to be, as I said, it's going to

8 advertised and available to everybody. That's why

9 I'm mentioning it tonight.

10 MR. DAVIS: It's a hope.

11 MS. EVANS: It's a hope.

12 MR. DAVIS: We have that hope.

13 MS. EVANS: And I hear there are a

14 lot of jobs.

15 MR. DAVIS: I haven't seen them. I

16 just have not seen them, and on top of that, by the

17 time the jobs get down to the city residents they

18 are usually not there. As far as the leadership

19 group, those are hired from the University are

20 usually not even residents of the city, so

21 therefore, the jobs are not going to those who need

22 it the most, those, the impoverished of the city do

23 not get the jobs. Those should be outlying

24 districts who have income and also have influence

25 get the position, we know that from the past.

76

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1 That's why the reason why the CETA program in

2 Scranton failed because they were hiring the wrong

3 people for the program and the money was going down  
4 the tubes instead of up the tubes. How many kids  
5 are really needed? Now, the CETA program was  
6 beautiful when it started and it was beautiful, it  
7 reached right into the city and right into those  
8 who were impoverished, those are the ones who got  
9 the jobs, but that's changed and we know that it's  
10 changed and we are saying we are going to start  
11 charging our children a little closer, we are going  
12 to start watching what happens to those that do get  
13 expelled from school. We ant to find out if they  
14 are going to end up with an education or with a  
15 police record and if they do I think we are going  
16 to start suing -- no, we are not. We are going to  
17 try to give them an education.

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: Before you think  
19 about suing, we don't ask kids to do anything wrong  
20 in our schools, we don't solicit bad behavior, we  
21 don't hand out weapons at the door, we don't do  
22 that in any of our communities and the suggestion  
23 you are making is off line. The demographic  
24 numbers, which I can't talk about because we are  
25 not going to talk about individual students, but

1 families go across all demographic groups. Good  
2 kids make mistakes, bad kids make mistakes, kids  
3 from the right side of the tracks make mistakes, so  
4 do kids from the wrong side of the tracks, but the  
5 one constant is that you need to make sure that --  
6 I don't mean you, I mean, and we need to tell our  
7 kids what's right and wrong. It has nothing to do  
8 with that first blush, morality doesn't have  
9 anything to do with, and what's right and wrong  
10 with economics. You can still choose to act up and  
11 you can still choose not to act up, and that's the  
12 first thing that we are not ever hitting on here,  
13 we are dancing around those issues, but it's very  
14 easy for us to say, "That is not appropriate," and  
15 I'm glad you brought those numbers up about the  
16 school on that because if you take a look at the  
17 incidents and the number that we have addressed  
18 they are very close, so I'm very glad you brought  
19 that message up that says if you act up we are  
20 going to address it.  
21 So, the first message is I came from very

22 mild means, my father was a union glass worker and  
23 my mother was a neighborhood beautician and I still  
24 knew what was right and wrong. I didn't have a  
25 swimming pool. I'll date myself, I grew up between

78

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1 West Scranton High School pool and the Novembrino  
2 pool so I didn't have a pool. We played ball, and  
3 I still knew what was right and wrong and my  
4 parents told them what was right and wrong and we  
5 didn't have political influence or anything like  
6 that so I didn't have a CETA job as you're  
7 referring to, but I still knew what was right and  
8 wrong and when I goofed up I had to pay for it and  
9 my father and my parents made sure of that, so you  
10 are making very broad statements about this city  
11 and about our systems that might have some validity  
12 on some surfaces, but we are twisting some  
13 demographic statistics into knots.

14 MR. DAVIS: Look, I've asked for  
15 demographic statistics. I asked the school board.

16 MR. MCTIERNAN: I can give you

17 demographics statistics, that's not a problem.

18 MR. DAVIS: You told me that

19 tonight.

20 MR. MCTIERNAN: That's not a city

21 issue.

22 MR. DAVIS: I'll talk to tomorrow

23 morning about the demographics so thank you and

24 that has nothing to do with the constitutionality,

25 I don't want to know the names of the people, I

79

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1 don't know the demographics, I don't know how many

2 of the kids are losing -- we're already losing out

3 of the community, how many kids can we reach? How

4 many kids do we have to reach after school. We've

5 got to start a program that's going to work with

6 the kids --

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: I agree with you we

8 should start all those programs but we first have

9 to tell people --

10 MR. DAVIS: You as a school --

11 MR. MCTIERNAN: It's not right to

12 misbehave, program or no program it's not right to

13 misbehave. Period. Period.

14 MR. DAVIS: We are not

15 communicating, brother.

16 MR. MCTIERNAN: I'm listening to

17 you, but --

18 MR. DAVIS: We are not

19 communicating.

20 MR. MCTEIRNAN: -- I'm not going to

21 take the fall within somebody says, "We are going

22 to act up."

23 Misbehaving is misbehaving. Doesn't matter

24 what programs are out there, sir.

25 MR. MCTIERNAN: If you talk to the

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1 community they would stop the misbehaving, they

2 could help you. There is no doubt about that, but

3 you've got to invite the communicate into the

4 schools, you can't stop them at the gate and say,

5 "You can't -- there is nothing you can do here."

6 MR. MCTIERNAN: I don't recall

7 keeping anybody out, I don't recall anybody they  
8 can't participate in any programs, sir, with all  
9 due respect.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

11 Thank you, Mr. McTiernan. That's it for the sign  
12 in sheet, but before I ask if there is any other  
13 speakers, let me ask Mr. Saunders a question, Mrs.  
14 Evans brought up about a summer work program I  
15 think offered by the Scranton Housing Authority and  
16 she was onto something that, you know, maybe the  
17 most needy don't get the work, and I don't know  
18 what the requirements are to be honest with you,  
19 but can we ask the housing authority what the  
20 requirements are of being awarded those summer  
21 jobs, both college and high school, and can we ask  
22 for -- because I think it's public information, can  
23 we ask for a list of the people that were awarded  
24 the jobs, the children that were awarded the jobs?  
25 It should be public information.

81

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1 MR. SAUNDERS: Yes, I will.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you very much,

3 Mr. Saunders.

4 MS. EVANS: You can also indicate

5 there that we are interested in seeing it

6 advertised so that everyone has an opportunity to

7 apply for these jobs. You know, I received

8 residents' complaints that it's advertised after

9 it's filled. That, you know, there are specific

10 selections made well in advance and, you know,

11 that's unfortunate because I don't mean to single

12 out, you know, solely underprivileged children,

13 but, you know, we are talking about that

14 population, we are talking about the middle class,

15 you know, it seems that an awful lot of our

16 youngsters are locked out of this availability

17 summer, that's not fair.

18 MR. SAUNDERS: I will add that in.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Are there

20 any other speakers?

21 MR. BRYZINSKI: Good evening, Frank

22 Bryzinski, Jermyn apartments. I was at the hearing

23 yesterday of the sports complex, I heard Attorney

24 Walker urge Judge Walsh to dismiss the lawsuit.

25 Their attorney said if falls under the dedicated

1 prospect law and the sale must be approved by the  
2 Orphans' Court. Mr. Reckless says that dedicated  
3 property is only -- Mr. Walker said that dedicated  
4 property only applies to permanent acceptance of  
5 the property by political subdivision of the City  
6 Council. City Council 2002 transferred the  
7 development to the development authority and then  
8 the development authority entered into an agreement  
9 to settle the University of Scranton and then had  
10 this state legislation approved for the bill. In  
11 my opinion you can see a lot of hanky-panky has  
12 been going on in the south side complex. So much  
13 for that.

14 Now, on the corner of Linden Street and  
15 Wyoming Avenue and the other corner of Penn Avenue  
16 and Linden Street there is signs up there property  
17 for sale and behind that, that whole parking lot is  
18 there and, Mr. Walsh, is that whole parking lot for  
19 sale up to John's or John's Store by the bank? Is  
20 the whole thing for sailor just -- or what's the

21 deal on that?

22 MR. WALSH: I'm not sure whether or

23 not the whole thing is for sale, so I don't know

24 the answer to that question actually.

25 MR. BRYZINSKI: Okay. Anyway, back

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1 to the store, a lot of people is on my back still

2 pushing for that, actually one manager at Gerrity's

3 and he talked to Joyce, the owners of that, Joyce

4 and Joe Vazula, owner of Gerrity's and he said,

5 "It's a great idea, but where the hell am I going

6 to put it?"

7 So, I figured I was thinking of Woolworths

8 but I just found out the Woolworth is sold. Is the

9 Woolworth -- Mr. Walsh?

10 MR. WALSH: I apologize, I was

11 preoccupied with important city business with Mr.

12 Saunders over here.

13 MR. BRYZINSKI: I'm sorry, I

14 apologize I interrupted you.

15 MR. WALSH: Not a problem. Go right

16 ahead, sir, what's your question?

17 MR. BRYZINSKI: What's with the

18 Woolworth store, I thought that was for sale I

19 don't see no signs for in the window?

20 MR. WALSH: Mr. Saunders has

21 indicated to me that it's not for sale.

22 MR. BRYZINSKI: It's not for sale?

23 MR. SAUNDERS: No.

24 MR. BRYZINSKI: I hear it's sold and

25 I hear it's not for sale.

84

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1 MR. SAUNDERS: It's been redone and

2 business are in there.

3 MR. DIBILEO: It was for sale at one

4 time.

5 MR. BRYZINSKI: Well, if it's not

6 for sale I think that would be an ideal spot for a

7 grocery store there's a lot of parking, they're

8 building parking up there in front of Clarks

9 Summit.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Well, it's occupied

11 right now.

12 MR. BRYZINSKI: It is?

13 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, it's fully

14 occupied.

15 MR. BRYZINSKI: Anyway, what we get

16 we'll get that grocery store in they should put

17 Dave Kosterno, customer relations told me to put in

18 any way. Thank you anyway.

19 MR. MCANDREW: Good evening,

20 Council, Larry McAndrew, Scranton resident and

21 taxpayer.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

23 MR. MCANDREW: Before I came over

24 this evening I turned on the TV to my one of my

25 favorite television stations, which is Channel 61,

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1 and there is two points that I want to bring out is

2 that, one, the zoning, the zoning laws here in

3 Scranton and, two, police patrol. One thing is on

4 the zoning laws there is certain individuals that

5 are moving in here into Scranton that are going

6 through the process of going to licenses and  
7 permits, but they are neglecting the zoning laws  
8 and I believe there should be stricter enforcement  
9 on these zoning laws. I know that that office  
10 might be overworked and understaffed but if we have  
11 money for the pools up in Nay Aug park for a fish  
12 pond that cost over \$450,000 to my understanding,  
13 we should have emphasis put on our restriction on  
14 our zoning laws.

15 As far as police patrols, when I was growing  
16 up we had a patrolman walking the beat. I don't  
17 know what happened to that. I don't see a  
18 patrolman walking the beat. I did see certain  
19 patrolman on bicycles in our neighborhood in the  
20 summer months this is an essential that we have a  
21 patrolman present with a billy club to enforce the  
22 laws here in Scranton, to protect and to serve,  
23 this is just a minimum thing that should be done.

24 Also tonight, our newspaper articles were  
25 brought up and I challenge the Scranton Times this

1 night, I challenge them because when Chris Doherty  
2 ran for mayor the last time, I believe it was the  
3 Year 2001, a corporation financially supported  
4 him. The Scranton Times has the figures of what  
5 his financial situation was and they should and  
6 must release this information to the general public  
7 before this election comes up in November. This is  
8 essential, this is very important that they do  
9 this. Other than that I wish everybody a nice  
10 week. Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.

12 McAndrew. Any other speakers.

13 MR. FIORINI: Good evening, council.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Good evening.

15 MR. FIORINI: Bill Fiorini, director

16 of permits, license and inspection. Now, a couple

17 of council meetings ago there was some concerns

18 about South Edwards court from Mr. Bingham, number

19 one, I met with the developer of Walgreens today,

20 we went over there, we looked at the temporary

21 barricades and etcetera, he is going to remove them

22 and install a guardrail according to the prints on

23 that, so that matter is going to be taken care of.

24 The other matter I met with you the other

25 day, in the court where people are speeding going

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1 through the convenient mart there, I pulled a  
2 couple of deeds today, I needed to do research on a  
3 little bit more, but I think when Rob Farrell gets  
4 back you want to talk to him about maybe we have  
5 them put a fence up with a gate because their  
6 employees park in there and on that drive through  
7 and in the interest of public safety maybe we can  
8 do that, have them put a fence, put a gate, have  
9 the employees park on the other side and walk  
10 through and that should probably slow down the  
11 traffic going through the court. The thing with  
12 speed bumps and with the young drivers, I don't  
13 think it's going to slow them down. They are going  
14 to go right over and care less, so I think that  
15 should be our last resort on that matter over  
16 there.

17 On Daron, I talked to Mr. Lewis today, the  
18 paving will start on this Monday coming, June 20,  
19 they are going to get started on that, there were

20 some concerns by some of the neighbors what were in  
21 the silos and in the two silos one has white cement  
22 and the other one has gray cement. That's the only  
23 product that's being pumped in. There is no  
24 chemicals going into those silos.  
25 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

88

1 MR. FIORINI: Yvonne mentioned last  
2 week about the lights flashing onto her house,  
3 reflecting onto it, I talked to Mr. Lewis about it  
4 he said they are going to take care of that and put  
5 shields on those lights.  
6 And the signs were put up, I'm sorry that  
7 they got the a.m. and p.m. backwards, I will get  
8 that straightened out, that's an easy mistake.  
9 That's all I have.

10 MR. POCIUS: Thank you.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.

12 Fiorini.

13 MR. SCOPELITTI: Good evening

14 council, my name is Bob Scopelitti, I'm the

15 director or parks and recreation for the City of  
16 Scranton, and may I approach the council with some  
17 information?

18 MR. DIBILEO: Certainly.

19 MR. SCOPELITTI: I come before you  
20 tonight to ask you to reconsider the motion that's  
21 on the floor of the free swim pass for the  
22 satellite pools. The piece of information I have  
23 sent to you is the Scranton Police Department  
24 statistics and while the incidents that happened at  
25 the pools, and as the Times has reported, the

89

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1 information forwarded to them earlier this week  
2 that crime has subsided with the pool rates.  
3 My job as a director of parks and recreation  
4 is first and foremost to a safe work environment  
5 for 120 young adults that work for me and then next  
6 provide a safe environment for the patrons that  
7 attend this pool. The first year we were in office  
8 we witnessed no fees at these sites and they just  
9 literally become hangouts. We want to encourage to

10 come and enjoy the pools, but what we have is  
11 almost a situation like we have in our malls, they  
12 just hang out and like earlier today I heard their  
13 jobs are to save lives, it's exactly what they  
14 are. We employ 120 guards that are residents of  
15 this city and it's my job to do so and I'm prepared  
16 to take that responsibility and I just wonder how  
17 we could just make motions on our floor without  
18 making attempt to call the head of a department or  
19 even talk to anybody that works there, so my  
20 purpose tonight is obviously to make you aware that  
21 something will happen and I hope that you are  
22 prepared to take responsibility for when it does.

23 MS. EVANS: Mr. Scopelitti, if I  
24 might just response to one thing, I'll say it's  
25 very difficult for me to talk with most employees

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1 because they tell me they have been instructed by  
2 you not to talk to me.

3 MR. SCOPELITTI: That's not true.

4 MS. EVANS: All right, you are

5 calling everyone I've spoken to a liar?

6 MR. SCOPELITTI: You can have them

7 come before me, Mrs. Evans, I don't tell anybody

8 not to talk to anybody. If the press or anybody

9 has anything to say to any lifeguards they are not

10 to be interrogated, they are to ask and come and

11 see me.

12 MS. EVANS: I'm not just talking

13 about lifeguards, although there are some

14 lifeguards who have told me some very, very

15 interesting stories about what goes on up there and

16 I'm not talking about the trouble making or

17 undesirable children, but, you know, whether it is

18 the individuals who work for you or the lifeguards

19 or even people employed up at the park I have been

20 told by -- and even residents of certain areas they

21 are not to speak to me on orders from you because

22 if they do they will be fired and if they do they

23 will receive no further allocations in terms of

24 payment --

25 MR. SCOPELITTI: I'd like you to

1 bring them in front of me and I will talk to them.

2 I never --

3 MS. EVANS: No, they'd have to come

4 probably in front of both of us.

5 MR. SCOPELITTI: That's fine.

6 MS. EVANS: Because they don't want

7 to -- I can understand, they don't want to go in

8 front of you personally because they have been --

9 they have been harassed, they have been screamed

10 at, they are a number of females who are actually

11 frightened of you which I think is ridiculous

12 because you don't see scare me.

13 MS. SCOPELITTI: It doesn't matter,

14 Mrs. Evans, what you feel about me, I have a

15 responsibility as a head of a department to create

16 a safe work environment. When there is two near

17 drownings at Nay Aug park that is a very serious

18 issue and I take it serious.

19 MS. EVANS: Oh, but it was taken

20 care of by the lifeguards.

21 MR. SCOPELITTI: We have 40 guards

22 at Nay Aug park.

23 MS. EVANS: One of whom was then

24 fired by you.

25 MR. SCOPELITTI: Their job is to

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1 save people and no one has been fired by me unless

2 they've got a minimum of four warnings. That's

3 simply the facts.

4 MS. EVANS: Well, there was an

5 individual who, indeed, saved a life up there and

6 is long gone because of disagreements with you, but

7 that's neither here or there because that's in the

8 past and that person is no longer employed so

9 that's a nonissue.

10 MR. SCOPELITTI: Correct.

11 MS. EVANS: But I just wanted to say

12 I don't appreciate the fact that people are told

13 not to talk to me and, you know, evidently they are

14 talking to me.

15 MR. SCOPELITTI: Well, that's fine.

16 I would appreciate the fact if you pick up the

17 phone and call me. I would be very much

18 appreciated. I haven't heard anything from either

19 any of you.

20 MS. EVANS: Can I ask you for a  
21 question -- a question right now, not only, you  
22 know, and I have read this in the newspaper, but  
23 then I get most of my information from the  
24 newspaper, these are the incidents, but what are  
25 the attendance numbers for last summer for each of

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1 the pools?

2 MR. SCOPELITTI: I don't have last  
3 year's attendance numbers, Mrs. Evans, but I am  
4 prepared to give you what we have taken in from  
5 Saturday, our opening.

6 MS. EVANS: Well, my point is this  
7 though, going back, you know, I'd like to see the  
8 attendance numbers for 2002, and especially 2003  
9 and 2004 because I submit that last summer was a  
10 particularly rainy season, cold days, so the  
11 numbers were down. I remember reading about this,  
12 the numbers were down at the Nay Aug Pool, so we  
13 didn't generate the revenue that we had hoped to

14 and anticipated because of weather conditions and I  
15 would assume that would pertain to all  
16 neighborhoods, the inclement weather permeated all  
17 the areas of the city, so actually when I look  
18 in -- when I look at a decline in the incidents  
19 here I think that can also be related to the fact  
20 that the attendance had declined as well.

21 MR. SCOPELITTI: That could be your  
22 opinion, that's fine, I'm not going to argue with  
23 that.

24 MS. EVANS: Well, it's an opinion  
25 but then again weather is not an opinion. I don't

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1 know too many people who swim in the rain or swim  
2 when it's 65 or 70 degrees.

3 MR. SCOPELITTI: Whatever it is they  
4 are the facts and that's something that I have  
5 given you and I hope it weighs somewhat in your  
6 decision.

7 MR. DIBILEO: Let me ask you  
8 something, Mr. Scopelitti, are you aware that 60

9 percent of the students in the Scranton school  
10 district live in families that live below the  
11 poverty level?

12 MR. SCOPELITTI: I didn't know that,  
13 Gary.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Okay.

15 MR. SCOPELITTI: But, I'm prepared  
16 also -- I'm all right.

17 MR. DIBILEO: I'm not done yet.

18 MR. SCOPELITTI: Go ahead.

19 MR. DIBILEO: You're the director of  
20 parks and recreation.

21 MR. SCOPELITTI: That's correct.

22 MR. DIBILEO: And if you think that  
23 free swimming for all families, including those  
24 that are below the poverty level is a bad idea,  
25 then I don't think you understand the people that

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1 you should be serving. Now, you said to me just  
2 earlier and you said I read it in the press that I  
3 better be prepared for what comes down the pike.

4 Now, I know that kids will be kids and kids should  
5 be kids and shenanigans will occur, but maybe I'm  
6 missing something, but when did free become a bad  
7 thing? And let me say this, you know, I'm an  
8 elected official, I'm not a political appointee and  
9 I don't need you to remind me that I need to be  
10 aware of what comes down the pike. Because I'm an  
11 elected official and I was elected by the people  
12 I'm fully aware of the ramifications of the  
13 decisions I make and, quite frankly, this was one  
14 of the easier decisions I've made as a councilman  
15 and one reason why you didn't get a call from me is  
16 because I'm an elected official and to be quite  
17 honest with you, you are an political appointee.  
18 Now, I think that because of the remarks you  
19 gave and because of the fact that as parks and  
20 recreation director that you don't embrace the fact  
21 that you should be allowing for free swimming to  
22 the people that you are supposed to be serving, I  
23 think that you should tender your resignation to  
24 city hall.  
25 MR. SCOPELITTI: Well, let me just

1 say this much --

2 MR. DIBILEO: And I think that the

3 mayor who you work for should see to it that that

4 occurs.

5 MR. SCOPELITTI: Well --

6 MR. DIBILEO: And I think that

7 should -- excuse me, and I think that should occur

8 immediately, because you do not understand the

9 people that you are serving.

10 MR. SCOPELITTI: Well, let me tell

11 you this much, Mr. Dibileo, maybe you don't

12 understand that I'm not saying that I don't know

13 there is 60 percent of the people that are in

14 poverty levels, but I do understand that there is

15 funding projects that are given out by CEBG funds,

16 one of them being the Boys and Girls Club with a

17 park plan that takes young children to our pools to

18 swim and it provided \$55,238 for this. Another one

19 is UNC's Project Hope, again, funded by the City of

20 Scranton and OECD at the tune of \$76,205 that

21 provides a week away in Tunkhannock, these are

22 projects that we support and we realize that there

23 are poor individuals out there that might not be  
24 able to do some things so we do do this. We are  
25 aware of this and we love to fund these things.

97

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1 MS. EVANS: How much money did Nay  
2 Aug park lose last year, and I know that you  
3 provided free swim passes which was a wonderful  
4 thing to do, I compliment you, the mayor, the city  
5 on that, however, I understand that a number of  
6 passes far exceeded what you estimated would have  
7 been distributed.

8 MR. SCOPELITTI: I don't know if  
9 it's a loss, Mrs. Evans, I would say the rec  
10 authority could answer that question more so for  
11 you, we don't ever consider anything like that a  
12 loss.

13 MS. EVANS: No, I'm not saying it's  
14 a loss either, but what I'm saying is it's obvious  
15 that there are many, many, many more people  
16 eligible for free swimming than you believe would  
17 have taken advantage of this, and then when I think

18 of those numbers beyond them who won't subject  
19 themselves to going to confession publicly about  
20 their finances, you know, the numbers are great and  
21 I'm sorry, Mr. Dibileo, I jumped in there I know he  
22 has another question.

23 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, I have one fact  
24 that 60 percent of the 9,000 children in the  
25 Scranton School District are roughly 5,500

98

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1 children, that's a lots of children and if you  
2 think that underprivileged kids should suffer  
3 because of a few people with shenanigans you don't  
4 understand the people you are trying to serve.

5 MR. SCOPELITTI: Yes, we do.

6 MR. DIBILEO: That's your number one  
7 objective.

8 MR. SCOPELITTI: My objective --

9 MR. DIBILEO: And, as I said,  
10 earlier, the because of that and because you are  
11 threatening me that I better be aware of my  
12 consequences, which I fully am, I'm going to say it

13 again, I think you should tender your resignation.

14 MR. SCOPELITTI: That's not going to

15 happen.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Because you are not

17 doing a service to this community with that

18 attitude and it's a bad run.

19 MR. SCOPELITTI: You have to

20 understand that I have to provide, like I said

21 before, a safe work environment.

22 MR. DIBILEO: Absolutely.

23 MR. SCOPELITTI: That doesn't happen

24 and these facts that I have given you prove that.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Scopelitti, can

99

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1 I just jump in there one second, I'm just going to

2 say Nay Aug because that seems to be the one that

3 everybody looks at all the time and you are showing

4 us these facts and I just saw these just now and

5 trespassing I don't know quite what they're

6 referring to when they mean trespassing, but it

7 went from 2002 to 2004 it dropped, all right?

8 Public indecency, dropped from 2002 to 2004.  
9 Well, at the same time suspicious persons rose, all  
10 right? I'm going to tell you that I think it's  
11 because in 2004 you had a police officer up there  
12 almost eight hours a day, all right? And that's--  
13 I think that's the reason. I'm not saying to put  
14 police officers in there, I'm saying that's why  
15 these statistics changed and the police chief, I  
16 was going to bring it up later, he doesn't want  
17 police officers at the pool all day long, I never  
18 suggested to have police officers at the pool all  
19 day long, he should start paying attention, I  
20 suggested that when police officers are on their  
21 patrols they can drive by. Police officers pull  
22 over all over the city and pull over and do their  
23 reports, I suggest that maybe they pull over there,  
24 you know, at the pool and do their reports. So  
25 these numbers I think, and I'm just saying Nay Aug,

100

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1 because we had an officer minimal of eight hours a  
2 day up there, I'm not going to say the officer's

3 name, he is no longer with the department, he is a  
4 state trooper I believe, but I believe that's why  
5 those numbers dropped.

6 MR. DIBILEO: Let me say this, there  
7 was a caucus meeting which I mentioned earlier at  
8 the South Side Neighborhood Association, there are  
9 shootings, there are stabbings, there are machetes  
10 being yielded and none of that, as far as I know,  
11 made the first page.

12 MS. EVANS: No.

13 MR. DIBILEO: But the mayor's PR  
14 team must have been working a lot of overtime to  
15 get that front page article yesterday --

16 MR. SCOPELITTI: That's your  
17 opinion, Mr. Dibileo.

18 MR. DIBILEO: And you, too, sir, are  
19 working overtime and your five minutes is up.  
20 Thank you.

21 MS. EVANS: Well, at least I do  
22 appreciate the fact that if no where else in  
23 Scranton at least crime is down at Nay Aug, but,  
24 you know, what is it, Mr. Scopelitti, what's the  
25 true purpose of the fees?

1 MR. SCOPELITTI: The true purpose --

2 MS. EVANS: On the one hand I heard

3 it's to pay for lifeguard salaries and chemicals.

4 Now, according to the front page of the newspaper

5 it's to keep of the undesirables, and let's just

6 put the cards on the table here because I have

7 heard the words used by management, to keep out the

8 riffraff, to keep out the welfare cases, to keep

9 out the minorities. Now, I am not here to judge

10 anybody, not you and not the children and not the

11 public because you know what, that's a privilege

12 that belongs only to God, not to me, but I think

13 it's time that the bullying stops and it's not just

14 the bullying of the public, it's the bullying of

15 the employees you oversee.

16 MR. SCOPELITTI: As I said before,

17 Mrs. Evans, I did not tell anybody not to speak

18 with you, and if you care to talk about that more

19 I'm more than willing to do so.

20 MS. EVANS: You'd probably need a

21 week.

22 MR. SCOPELITTI: That's fine.

23 MS. EVANS: I mean, I can go back --

24 we can go back in time to my first visit to the

25 pool house to inspect what was going on up there

102

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1 because there was an awful lot of let's say tails

2 out of school or hooley told about that situation.

3 What goes in the paper doesn't match what I see

4 with my own eyes, and what I hear from experienced

5 plumbers, mechanics, etcetera. And just one last

6 question before you go, where is the plaque for the

7 gorge.

8 MR. SCOPELITTI: The plaque for the

9 gorge?

10 MS. EVANS: Um-hum.

11 MR. SCOPELITTI: I believe there is

12 a plaque at Weston Field that designates that a

13 national historic landmark.

14 MS. EVANS: Yes, and we would like

15 that placed up there and, actually, I had been told

16 by an employee that that was there. Can you also

17 tell me what actually happened to Mayor Schmidt's  
18 plaque.

19 MR. SCOPELITTI: Where is Mr. -- I'm  
20 not sure.

21 MS. EVANS: In the south side  
22 complex.

23 MR. SCOPELITTI: That was never  
24 there when we got there. I think someone had  
25 referred to that a car might have hit it. It was a

103

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1 wooden plaque from my understanding but it was not  
2 in place when we took over office.

3 MS. EVANS: Well, I have heard  
4 various stories, even family members have been told  
5 some tall tales, but I've made probably over five  
6 requests to place a new plaque in it's place, why  
7 has that never happened?

8 MR. SCOPELITTI: We'll see what we  
9 can do, Mrs. Evans. I'm not sure of what even the  
10 plaque looked like, if someone would help us figure  
11 that out maybe we could help you.

12 MS. EVANS: Well, I suggest talk to  
13 the leagues or any of the individuals who are the  
14 plaintiffs in the lawsuit. I'm sure they know well  
15 what it looked like or better yet call some of  
16 Mayor Schmidt's family members. He has a  
17 sister-in-law that lives in Moscow. He has  
18 actually some relatives that reside in south side  
19 who have been asking me and asking me.

20 MR. SCOPELITTI: If you have them  
21 call my office we would be more than happy to do  
22 that.

23 MS. EVANS: Well, I hope this time  
24 because they have spoken to you before and the  
25 mayor, in fact, the mayor promised it would be

104

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1 replaced.

2 MR. SCOPELITTI: Okay.

3 MS. EVANS: Long ago and it never  
4 happened.

5 MR. SCOPELITTI: All right. Final  
6 note is basically that's all I'm here for to create

7 a safe work environment for my employees, they are  
8 all city residents, and it's not to be a hang out,  
9 it's to be respected and well taken by the people.

10 We create a good work environment for our people  
11 and we create good quality pool sites and that's  
12 what we want to maintain. Thank you.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, and please  
14 consider my suggestion.

15 MR. GERVASI: Good evening, ladies  
16 and gentlemen, my name is Dave Gervasi, I'm a  
17 firefighter with the City of Scranton, taxpayer,  
18 home owner. I'm just going to state my opinion,  
19 I'm not putting words in anybody's mouth but I have  
20 something else to talk about, fire business, but  
21 there is a lot of talk about these pool fees  
22 tonight. You know, I grew up -- well, I didn't  
23 grow up with Mr. Scopelitti, but we did go to high  
24 school together and we graduated together even  
25 though he looks much younger than I do, that's not

105

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1 Mr. Scopelliti talking, that's the arrogance of the

2 Doherty administration talking. I know Bob  
3 Scopelliti for a long time, these pool fees, and  
4 with all due respect to Dr. Cowley, who happens to  
5 be a good friend of the mayors, and I think the  
6 Gibbons firm has really hyped up some good stuff  
7 for all of his friends to come here tonight, with  
8 all due respect to Dr. Cowley, and all due respect  
9 to Mr. Scopelliti, I personally -- if Dr. Cowley  
10 can afford to send his kid to Prep, I think he can  
11 afford a pool fee. As a city employee, I'm not  
12 complaining I've got to send my kid up there with a  
13 pool fee, but what we have to understand is there  
14 are people who cannot afford a pool fee, and what  
15 are these kids supposed to do?  
16 Mr. Scopelitti just stated that it's his job  
17 to provide a secure environment for his employees,  
18 that's the police officer's jobs, but we just got  
19 rid of 22 of them and questions came up earlier  
20 tonight how are we going to pay for the 22 police  
21 officers? Well, just to let everyone know that  
22 that program ran out last year. Last year we were  
23 paying full load for those police officers, but I  
24 guess when you have a public safety director who is  
25 called redundant with his salary and his office

1 expenses we could have kept some of those police  
2 officers. Maybe if we instituted the 35 revenue  
3 generators that we gave to the last council, and  
4 the mayor I'm sure knows about it, maybe we could  
5 afford to keep own those 22 police officers and  
6 maybe we could have put a police officer at the  
7 pools, at every pool, in case of the shenanigans.  
8 Why do we have to make a whole group of unfortunate  
9 people suffer with a fee because the mayor wants a  
10 spend money on consultants and no big contracts and  
11 can't put police on the street?  
12 I'm sorry, let me go back to what I was going  
13 to talk about, my other favorite subject the  
14 Scranton Times. Miss Shedlock called me the other  
15 day and she said, "We are doing a story on why the  
16 arbitrations haven't taken place yet," and I said,  
17 "Sure, what's your questions," and I always give  
18 her the best answer I could. And she says, "Well,  
19 I'm going to talk to the mayor after you and if  
20 anything comes up I'll call you back and if you

21 have anything else to say."

22 Fine. Well, that normally doesn't happen,

23 normally the mayor always gets the last say and

24 they get my comments, he gets to chew it around and

25 then they write the article and the article was

107

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1 about half a page about all of the bad unions and

2 all of the bad arbitrators. Just the subtitle, how

3 they do things just like two weeks ago when they

4 called you and Mr. O'Malley insurgents. Real weird

5 word to use since the insurgents are killing our

6 troops in Iraq and they just happened to use the

7 insurgents against you, Mr. Dibileo and Mr. Todd

8 O'Malley. That's how this newspaper plays, and I'm

9 sorry, Miss Shedlock, but there is no more excuses

10 about your editors make you do stuff or your

11 editors change things. You guys are going above

12 and beyond the call of duty on this one.

13 Just under their subtitle it says,

14 "Scranton's distresses City recovery plan which

15 was overwhelming approved by city residents three

16 years ago is being held hostage by neutral  
17 arbitrators."  
18 Well, let's talk about that for a second, a  
19 neutral arbitrator is a quasi federal employee, we  
20 myself, our union, our lawyer, the mayor, the  
21 mayor's lawyer, has no control over what  
22 arbitrators do. The reason why we win arbitrations  
23 all of the time is because the city is wrong and we  
24 are right. It's as a simple as that. We don't go  
25 to arbitrations and spend our money that we can be

108

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1 giving to charities to lose a case on some whim and  
2 some reach, we don't do it.  
3 "The recovery plan which was overwhelming  
4 approved by city residents three years ago," they  
5 keep telling you that, the people approved it.  
6 Well, I'm going to go out and a limb here and I'm  
7 going say that probably 95 percent of the people  
8 never read the recovery plan and 90 percent of the  
9 people were threatened by the mayor that if you  
10 didn't vote for his recovery plan that he was going

11 to raise your taxes. Kind of like what Mr.  
12 Scopelliti said tonight that if you get rid of the  
13 pool fees you are going to be responsible if  
14 something happens at these pools. Typical threats  
15 from this administration.  
16 They go onto say, "A lot of serious decisions  
17 the city must make to get it's financial house in  
18 order haven't been made and can't be made until  
19 arbitration decisions come down and a recovery plan  
20 is implemented. In the interim, the city continues  
21 to bleed not red, but green, says public safety  
22 director Ray Hays."  
23 What's bleeding green? The money, tax money  
24 that's paid to police and fire fighters when you  
25 call us and you need something and we actually come

109

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1 up and do something? Maybe the bleeding is the no  
2 bid contracts at Nay Aug Park for campaign  
3 contributors. Maybe the bleeding is the  
4 consultants that we have that replaced the \$20,000  
5 a year single moms who did all of the work in the

6 clerical union. Maybe the bleeding is all of the  
7 ineptitude that comes out of the personnel office  
8 that caused most of these arbitrations, about  
9 \$700,000 worth of legal fees of your money that the  
10 mayor spent defending mistakes that were made here  
11 in city hall and defending a recovery plan that  
12 frankly there is not a judge on the planet who is  
13 going to give the mayor who sells religious  
14 trinkets the sole discretion to determine your  
15 safety in the City of Scranton. There's not a  
16 judge on the planet that is going to do that.  
17 Then they go onto say that the city unions  
18 deliberately are delaying these arbitrations. Let  
19 me tell you a little story, and this is not my  
20 style either, but I'm going to tell you a little  
21 story. May I finish?

22 MR. DIBILEO: Yes, please.

23 MR. GERVASI: Thank you. We have  
24 two arbitrators, one for the police officers and  
25 one for the fire department, right? The one

1 gentleman is from Philadelphia and the other  
2 gentleman is from Philadelphia. The one that is  
3 doing the arbitration for the fire department, the  
4 neutral, he has been paid I believe over \$200,000.  
5 The other, according to my lawyer, the other lawyer  
6 for the police officers he has been paid about a  
7 tenth of that and he is a more expensive lawyer.  
8 Now, let's talk about who the two lawyers are. The  
9 one guy just does Labor Law. The other guy as told  
10 on Politics Pa. Website he is the 15th most  
11 important, important politically person that's not  
12 elected in the State of Pennsylvania. You know  
13 what he does? He raises lots of money for  
14 candidates. He was one of the biggest fund raisers  
15 for Al Gore when Al Gore ran against George Bush.  
16 Why would we take a lawyer that he makes almost  
17 nine times more money in arbitration than another  
18 lawyer who is doing the exact same job for the  
19 exact same amount of arbitrations, and they are  
20 saying we are delaying the arbitration, well, maybe  
21 I'm going to stick my neck out here, but maybe,  
22 maybe, the administration is paying this guy a lot  
23 of money to delay all this stuff so he can put lots  
24 of money in his pocket because this guy gives money

25 back when you run next time.

111

1 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.

2 Gervasi.

3 MR. GERVASI: You're welcome.

4 MS. EVANS: Can I just -- I'll be

5 very brief, I have some information from the Office

6 for Domestic Preparedness under Home Land Security

7 and I found that there is a Safer Grant Program.

8 MR. GERVASI: That's correct.

9 MS. EVANS: At 2005 Safer Grant

10 Program and it offers eligible applicants for safer

11 grants include fire departments for the hiring of

12 firefighters. Now, according to this information

13 as well the deadline for receipt of the safer grant

14 applications will be 5:00 p.m. eastern daylight

15 time on June 28, 2005, would you know if the fire

16 department or Mr. Hays had applied for the Safer

17 Grants.

18 MR. GERVASI: Mrs. Evans, that I'm

19 not sure of. I was notified by a gentleman who

20 works in our department, he is a firefighter, who  
21 applied for the grants that got the breathing  
22 apparatus for us and he notified me of this a few  
23 weeks ago. I notified our union president and I  
24 mentioned it to our chief that you will probably be  
25 hearing from the unions. This is similar to the --

112

1 for lack of a better word, the Clinton Cops Program  
2 where they will pay for additional firefighters and  
3 it's because of Homeland Security and understaffing  
4 that's just about everywhere and every fire  
5 department throughout the country. So, yes, there  
6 is a lot of money there. Whether the city can  
7 apply for it or not I'm not sure and I'm not quite  
8 sure if our union actually asked, Mr. Courtright  
9 maybe you know?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: I was just going to  
11 ask, could you forward whatever information you  
12 guys have on that to us?

13 MR. GERVASI: Sure.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: So we can be better

15 versed in it.

16 MR. GERVASI: Absolutely.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: Because if it's

18 similar to the program like you are saying with the

19 police officers it might be something we really

20 want to take a look at.

21 MS. EVANS: But, you have to do it

22 quickly.

23 MR. COURTRIGHT: Right.

24 MS. EVANS: June 28.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's that quick,

113

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1 huh?

2 MS. EVANS: Yes.

3 MR. GERVASI: I will contact a

4 member of our department who has an understanding

5 of grants and any assistance he can give to the

6 city we will being happy to provide.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Thank you.

8 MR. GERVASI: The only problem is

9 the recovery plan prohibits writing of grants. I

10 mean, and I don't know if the mayor is willing to  
11 violate the recovery, he violated it about ten  
12 times already, his own recovery plan, but whether  
13 he is willing to do it for the an eleventh time we  
14 can find that out.

15 MS. EVANS: I think it would be a  
16 shame to miss out on this program, I mean, it's a  
17 very fine opportunity as was the program I  
18 mentioned of last week for the police force, so I'm  
19 hoping we are going to take advantage of what the  
20 government is putting out there practically in our  
21 laps on a silver platter.

22 MR. GERVASI: Our members will do  
23 their part and it's up the city whether they apply  
24 for them. Thank you.

25 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you.

114

1 MS. STULGIS: I'm Ann Marie Stulgis,  
2 and I'm a city resident, and I'm also president of  
3 the Scranton Fraternal Order of Police. I have to  
4 comment on the safety at the pools business,

5 whomever this PR person is that we pay to come up  
6 with that I think it's time we got somebody to  
7 replace him because that is the worst, worst line  
8 ever. The Censorship Alliance, as usual, spun it  
9 rather well that the crime is down since we are  
10 charging fees, of course, as Mrs. Evans pointed out  
11 turn out is done even more, percentagewise the  
12 number of people is much lower than the lowest city  
13 crimes and just to reiterate, Mr. Courtright, yes,  
14 in fact, we did have a police officer at the pool  
15 every day since they got that slide. That's why  
16 the crime is down because there was a policeman  
17 there. Also, I don't know if they happen to  
18 mention, but there was crime after the pool was  
19 closed, and I don't think those statistics were  
20 included. There was a lot of crime after the pool  
21 closed in the evening. For instance, I don't know  
22 if any of you were aware, but there was damage done  
23 to the slide last year, it cost the city quite a  
24 few dollars, the taxpayers quite a few dollars to  
25 the damage done to the slide.

1 Also, let me clarify the man in question that  
2 came up on the police contract, in fact, I was home  
3 and had to intention of being here until I caught  
4 that. Let me explain how the manning works. The  
5 union mandates that there be a minimum of nine  
6 police officers on the road for each shift. We do  
7 not care if the city wants to put 29 police  
8 officers on any shift they want, but every shift  
9 must have a minimum of nine. If they want to put  
10 nine on days and 27 during the high crime area  
11 that's fine. They want to go below nine on the  
12 roads during the day time. Now, we all know we  
13 have had a rash of bank robberies, we had the armed  
14 robberies with the machete, we do not need less  
15 than nine police officers to cover 27 square miles,  
16 that's ludicrous.

17 Oh, I had to love Sunday's article also in  
18 the Censorship Alliance, I thought it was rather  
19 informative that the police and fire unions are the  
20 root of all evil. The police and fire unions are  
21 the reason that this city can't recover. Of  
22 course, the police and fire unions haven't cost the  
23 city an extra dime, in fact, the article even

24 states that overtime is much lower for both unions,  
25 yet a few sentences later it states that the police

116

1 and fire unions were responsible for forcing the  
2 city to borrow 4 million dollars last year. Cost  
3 less for both departments, but we are responsible  
4 for the city being forced to borrow 4 million  
5 dollars and, if I may, I would like to ask the  
6 author of that article, "where is the beef, Lynn?  
7 Where are the facts? You can say it, but you've  
8 got to prove it."

9 We would like to know, we would like the  
10 Censorship Alliance to tell us how the unions  
11 forces the City to borrow 4 million dollars when  
12 whether we cost less. That would be  
13 extraordinarily interesting reading.

14 And as far as what I witnessed earlier, I  
15 found it rather appalling that a city cabinet  
16 appointee would actually threaten an elected  
17 official. I think it only adds credence to Mrs.  
18 Evan's comments that the employees of that

19 department would be afraid of him when, in fact, he  
20 would have the audacity to threaten an elected  
21 official.

22 MS. KRAKE: Good evening, council,  
23 my name is Nancy Krake. Earlier this evening we  
24 had a speaker named Mr. Cowley or Dr. Cowley and  
25 apparently he is friendly with the mayor and

117

1 apparently he is letting us know that the mayor is  
2 ready to raise your taxes if we don't charge a pool  
3 fee, same old story. I think that's a little  
4 bizarre, but that's what we heard this evening.  
5 Beyond that point, once again, it is a matter  
6 of priorities as Mr. Dibileo pointed out, in fact,  
7 if you just take a quick look at the 2005 budget  
8 you can see that landfill tipping fee for 2005 is  
9 1.6 million. We collected 4.3 million and 900,000  
10 in delinquencies. That's a 3.6 million difference  
11 that did not go towards tipping fees. So, maybe a  
12 little bit of that money could go towards the  
13 pool. That just was a quick glance at the budget.

14 Once again, a matter of priorities.  
15 This evening I really wanted to speak about  
16 Sunday's newspaper article. Once again, it was the  
17 same old spin by the mayor on why we are still  
18 distressed. Really even the mayor has got to be  
19 questioning why his public relations firm, the  
20 Gibbons Company, can't come up with some new  
21 rhetoric. The mayor attempts in this news article  
22 to blame everyone but himself for being  
23 distressed. He was the one who embraced the  
24 Pennsylvania Economy League and the distressed  
25 status when he became mayor. The rest of us were

118

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1 all embracing the budget surplus. He and  
2 Councilman Gilhooley drew up the plan which forced  
3 us to borrow 4 million dollars, sell assets, and  
4 grow middle management to an unprecedented level.  
5 In fact, never before in the city's history has so  
6 much money been paid in administrative salaries.  
7 Great plan, Mayor, that is for your  
8 administration. Why he's been blaming the citizens

9 themselves shame on us for wanting a safe, clean  
10 city. Shame on us for wanting wage tax relief,  
11 free parks and open government. We all apparently  
12 don't have the same vision as this mayor. I'd say  
13 that became very apparent to him after his  
14 primary. Since May he has been quite a busy little  
15 bee flitting from neighborhood meetings to picnics,  
16 quite a changed fellow. Maybe the consultants we  
17 the citizens provide tax dollars for are the ones  
18 telling him how to act since he certainly didn't  
19 know what to do before, finally, they are doing  
20 something constructive, also. Remember this  
21 mayor's recovery plan allowed him to give the  
22 savings he got by eliminating clerical jobs to his  
23 administration not back to the citizens in tax  
24 relief. He gave the clerical persons retired an  
25 unfunded double pension. It's funded now each year

119

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1 with taxpayer dollars \$476,000 price tag for 2004  
2 alone, that's one of the big chunks in the 4  
3 million dollar loan I would bet and each year that

4 same bill is going to roll down the pike paid by  
5 who? Not the KOZ's, not the nonprofits, but by the  
6 real taxpayers. This little gift, by the way, was  
7 not negotiated by me, the mayor must have come up  
8 with it by himself. This is what the mayor does  
9 once he gets control. Do we really want more  
10 administration in the police ranks? People like  
11 Ray Hays? He is the public safety director who  
12 said in the same news article that the city is  
13 bleeding green. In this case he really does know  
14 what he is talking about, he is part of that  
15 green. After all, the mayor's recovery plan  
16 created his bogus \$65,000 a year job along with the  
17 \$29,000 a year secretary. We don't have a Band-Aid  
18 big enough to stop the bleeding on that one. Thank  
19 you.

20 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening,  
21 council. Nelson Ancharani, citizen, taxpayer  
22 resident and financial secretary of the FOP. I  
23 heard Mrs. Williams and maybe I have some answers  
24 for her, she was talking about the high crime time,  
25 but evidently her or maybe the administration does

1 not know that there is part of the contract that  
2 calls for a "D" shift. They could have implemented  
3 a "D" shift whenever they wanted and put more  
4 officers on the street between 8:00 at night and  
5 4:00 in the morning. All they had to do was read  
6 the contract.

7 She also asked if somebody could sit down  
8 with the union. I have been saying for years for  
9 the mayor to sit down and talk to us, look how much  
10 money that would have saved and how much we have  
11 spent now because we are in arbitration. Also,  
12 they are again blaming the unions, but they have to  
13 remember the city is the one that asked for  
14 arbitration not us, they filed for it.

15 Also, the bleeding green part, you know, Mrs.  
16 Drake I was going to say about that, you total that  
17 you all up that's close to \$500,000 for the last  
18 four years for that office, public safety  
19 director. Also, I sat down and I figured out how  
20 many people we had that returned from Iraq between  
21 the police and the fire department, there were no  
22 clerks, I don't know if there is any DPW workers

23 here, but it comes out to approximately \$20,000,  
24 that's all we would need for those returning  
25 soldiers, military personnel. We paid or we are

121

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1 forgiving \$50,000 for the zoo through the geneses  
2 wildlife center. I think zoo should get the money,  
3 but I also feel that these personnel also should  
4 get it. They put their lives on the line for us so  
5 I'm going to ask the mayor like he can do it, the  
6 mayor could transfer money from the contingency  
7 fund. He can give those returning soldiers that  
8 money. Now it's the time for him to either put up  
9 or shut up. Thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Are there any other  
11 speakers?

12 MR. WALSH: 5-A, motions.

13 MR. DIBILEO: Mr. McTiernan, do you  
14 have any motions or comments?

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: Nothing at this  
16 time.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.

18 McTiernan. Mrs. Evans, motions or comments?

19 MS. EVANS: Yes. First I humbly ask

20 for all of your prayers tonight for two wonderful

21 people who have passed away, first Virginia

22 Levandowski who died several weeks ago and after

23 her lengthy illness of 11 years and, secondly,

24 Father Bernard Tierney, a passionist priest from

25 St. Ann's Basilica Shrine who was have a close

122

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1 friend of my late fathers and a wonderful friend to

2 my mother and me. He was truly a remarkable man

3 whose devotion to God and his fellow man will never

4 be forgotten.

5 First, at last week's council meeting I asked

6 that Ray Hays apply for the pilot program for the

7 local use of radar. If Scranton were approved we

8 could try to solve speeding problems in various

9 areas of the city and raise revenue to a five

10 percent of the annual budget. Today I spoke with a

11 resident of West Market Street who complained once

12 again of the speeding on that street. On Tuesday

13 morning, in fact, a DPW worker who was picking up  
14 garbage on West Market Street had to jump out of  
15 the way of the speeding car and this was not the  
16 first time it's happened. I never want to hear of  
17 another DPW worker dying on the job and, you know,  
18 this area of West Market Street I believe it's the  
19 500 block particularly, is a terrible accident  
20 waiting to happen. In fact, about two weeks ago  
21 there was a serious accident at the top of the hill  
22 on Bloom Street, I believe it is, and the evidence  
23 is the crushed fence that's still remains, and the  
24 residents tell me that the hours of greatest  
25 speeding are 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 to 6:30

123

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1 p.m., so I believe this pilot program, if Scranton  
2 were chosen, and I should back pedal here and say  
3 if, indeed, Mr. Hayes would please apply for this  
4 so that Scranton is at least going to be considered  
5 for this, this could go a very long way to  
6 correcting this situation on West Market Street and  
7 filling city coffers secondarily as well.

8 Jay, do we have any updates on the signs for  
9 the Malachite Church in West Scranton?

10 MR. SAUNDERS: No, not yet. I will  
11 check on that.

12 MS. EVANS: Also, the parking signs  
13 for the Coney Island and Buono Pizza?

14 MR. SAUNDERS: Not yet. I think  
15 they have to look at that and I haven't got a  
16 report back yet.

17 MS. EVANS: I understand the close  
18 proximity with the construction projects, but they  
19 are in the next block and, you know, certainly I  
20 don't think their business has to suffer as a  
21 result of any down town development, you know, they  
22 are not asking for parking at all times, it's just  
23 a 30-minute parking sign. Has the money been  
24 released for the Hill Neighborhood Association  
25 yet? To my knowledge it has not been so I would

124

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1 like a letter to Sarah Hailstone, please, at OECD  
2 why has this money not yet been released and when

3 can I expect that to happen? Also, a letter to Mr.

4 Krashefski, I would like the total payouts for

5 worker's comp for the Year 2002, and the Year 2004,

6 also, the value of the pension fund as of December

7 31, 2004; December 31, 2003; and December 31,

8 2002.

9 And, Attorney Walsh, do you have any updates

10 on the progress of the legislation for Tree Stadium

11 in terms of it's connection to the planning

12 commission?

13 MR. WALSH: Yes, I do. I believe

14 that Mr. Saunders had sent that out to the planning

15 commission which was required. Also, there has to

16 be a public hearing set on that, but the public

17 hearing has to be set during certain specified time

18 periods under the municipal planning code and I

19 think that Mr. Saunders is complying with those

20 requirements.

21 MS. EVANS: Now, are you saying a

22 public hearing conducted by the planning commission

23 or the council?

24 MR. WALSH: By the council. The

25 planning commission will receive the amendments and

1 then they will have the opportunity to present it  
2 to council if they so choose any recommendations  
3 and the hearing is set 30 days from the date it's  
4 delivered to the planning commission committee --  
5 commission rather, only because that gives council  
6 the ability to receive the input from the planning  
7 commission. So it's from the date, it's going to  
8 be a hearing before the council.

9 MS. EVANS: Can you contact Marywood  
10 University, please, and determine from them their  
11 intended starting dates for that parking facility?

12 MR. SAUNDERS: I believe that zoning  
13 went out there and put a stop work on that project.  
14 I will have to check on that.

15 MS. EVANS: Can you please, because  
16 if not it appears that the red tape we must follow  
17 in pursuant of now, you know, this particular  
18 project could take some time and I really don't  
19 want to see the parking lot going up in the mean  
20 time, so if that's the case wonderful, if not then  
21 as even Mr. McTiernan suggested a week or two ago I

22 think city council has to seek an injunction to  
23 prevent that from happening.  
24 On the matter of the free swimming at Nay Aug  
25 pools, just I know it's kind of a weary subject

126

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1 now, but as I said before happily for everyone  
2 crime is down at Nay Aug and at our neighborhood  
3 pools. Unfortunately, however, it's up in the  
4 remainder of the city, especially in south side,  
5 and you know what, this mayor just doesn't get it.  
6 If he thinks charging pool fees is the priority, if  
7 that's the issue of the day, that's more important  
8 to him than the public safety of our citizens in  
9 their neighborhoods, you know, something is very  
10 wrong with this picture. And according to the news  
11 article of June 15, 2005, the pool incidents  
12 appeared to be down and, of course, we have  
13 discussed the reasons, the true reasons, that those  
14 figures could very well be true.  
15 You know, Mr. Doherty and I, I brought this  
16 up, I don't know a week or two ago, but Mr.

17 Doherty, the councilman stated that charging  
18 underprivileged children to use the pools defeated  
19 the purpose of having public swimming spots. Mr.  
20 Doherty, the mayor, advocates charging fees at all  
21 public swimming spots. Could the real Chris  
22 Doherty please stand up? What do you believe in?  
23 And I also noticed in the paper, the very  
24 same paper, that the Lackawanna County owned McDade  
25 Pool is open longer hours, 11 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and

127

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1 use of the pool is free. How ever did they handle  
2 the troublemakers I wonder? And, as I said before,  
3 what is the true purpose of these fees? Is it  
4 financial or is it to keep out the undesirables?  
5 Well, I would suggest to get this moving that, you  
6 know, whether it's tonight or next week emergency  
7 legislation is implemented so that these kids can  
8 start swimming for free and the adults need to stop  
9 fighting over the red tape here, and I just wanted  
10 to go back to some statements that were made  
11 earlier tonight, one of our audience speakers said,

12 "No one gets a free lunch."  
13 Yes, they do, in the public schools, not at  
14 the private schools, that's true, I'm sure not at  
15 Prep and not everyone comes from wealthy or  
16 affluent families and as a teacher I encourage hard  
17 work in my classroom and I have learned a lot of  
18 lessons in the 21 years I have been in the  
19 classroom. I have learned today compared to ten,  
20 15 years ago I wear many more hats. I am not just  
21 the teacher anymore, I'm the mother to some, the  
22 friend to others, a guidance counselor to still  
23 others and through the years I have brought  
24 clothing in for children who didn't have a winter  
25 coat, didn't have a winter hat and gloves. I buy

128

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1 my own school supplies to give students who can't  
2 go home and say to their parents, "Mrs. Evans has  
3 this list of materials required for the class,"  
4 because I know it isn't going to happen, there is  
5 no money at home to pay for that. I have even  
6 helped to send some kids to college. So, you know,

7 to say there is a value in hard work, yes, there is  
8 and that should be taught at home and I try to  
9 teach it in my classroom, but I think you have to  
10 open up your eyes, too, and see that there are a  
11 lot of children, a lot of children, who don't have  
12 what most of the fortunate children in this city  
13 enjoy from two parent households, from two income  
14 or more families. They have nothing and they rely  
15 on the kindness of others.

16 And as for Mr. Scopelliti saying that I could  
17 have called him, again, I'll just say why would I  
18 call him when he threatens people not to speak to  
19 me? Why would I expect that he would speak to me  
20 in a truthful manner? And as for naming the  
21 individuals with whom I do speak, like the  
22 newspaper I have decided to protect my sources and  
23 for far better reasons and those are because these  
24 people are punished and harassed and screamed at  
25 work and I am not going to be the reason that it

129

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1 goes any farther. But Mr. Scopelliti should know

2 this, if this continues, if it starts up again  
3 tomorrow, I will know what's going on and all of  
4 the bullying of employee, as I said, and the people  
5 of this city has got to come to an end once and for  
6 all.

7 Finally, I do have a request list here  
8 somewhere if you will just excuse me for one  
9 second. Yes, on just a couple of things that  
10 really merits some public attention. Jay, could  
11 you please find out -- we got a wonderful letter  
12 tonight from Mr. Parker concerning all of the  
13 improvements and the ways in which he is going to  
14 address the flooding problem at Merrifield Avenue,  
15 but we have an equally serious problem over on East  
16 Parker Street and I have been asking for that  
17 meeting now with Mr. Parker and Mr. Lennox, the  
18 residents, the business owners because that must be  
19 addressed as well, so could you just call him  
20 please and let's get a date for this before, you  
21 know, we have the yet another episode.  
22 Also, was the problem with the line on the  
23 tower on Engine 9 on North Main Avenue taken care  
24 of yet?  
25 MR. SAUNDERS: I didn't get to them

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1 yet.

2 MS. EVANS: Okay, 10-22, 10-24

3 Diamond Avenue, this is my third request, junk

4 cars, tires, appliances in the backyard, the

5 inspectors visited last year and the residents

6 claim it was never reinspected yet and the problem

7 is worse than ever. Also, I have residents who

8 want to know when the Albright Bridge Project will

9 be completed and they have a very fine suggestion I

10 believe and anyone who is familiar with Scranton

11 Lace I think can envision what we are talking about

12 here, right across from the Scranton Lace works on

13 Albright Avenue there was a large shady grove with

14 trees and very near that was an empty parking lot,

15 it seems to be fenced in with a makeshift fence of

16 sorts, but it's been vacant for a very long time.

17 Now, since the initiation of the flood project this

18 area has been used to stockpile what seems to be

19 tons and tons of earth, and I'm wondering once the

20 project is completed, well, maybe I should back up

21 here a minute, who owns that property, the city or

22 did Scranton Lace?

23 MR. SAUNDERS: I don't know that

24 answer.

25 MS. EVANS: I'd like to find that

131

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1 answer out, Jay, because if it's city owned the

2 residents of this area who have suffered so much

3 through the flood project, through flooding that

4 never occurred in their area prior to this flood

5 project, they have asked that that space be made

6 into either a playground or a park and they have

7 also asked that their area would receive sidewalks

8 because the few that are there have been destroyed

9 by the flooding and the equipment and as for the

10 remainder of the area sidewalks have just been

11 nonexistent, so I think they are very deserving of

12 attention for sidewalks and, you know, if we can

13 ascertain who owns that property and, of course, if

14 it's Scranton Lace then I expect that's, of course,

15 going to go to Lackawanna County College, but if

16 not I think we should be doing something about it

17 and that's it. Thank you.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mrs. Evans.

19 Mr. Pocius, any motions or comments?

20 MR. POCIUS: To answer Mr. Andrew

21 who said something before, you don't have to go to

22 the Scranton Times to look at anyone's financial

23 reports, they are available in the Voter

24 Registration Office which is the old PGW building

25 on Jefferson Avenue right across from the Radisson,

132

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1 there is a report due today, they are filed, you

2 can ask the personnel there to look at anybody's

3 report, they are available. That's public record,

4 that's why they are filed.

5 Number two, I'd like to make a motion at this

6 time that according card to Mr. Saunders' letter

7 here which he sent out that we formalized this

8 public hearing on File of Council No. 134-2005,

9 which is amending the zoning ordinance for the park

10 surface parking lots and that this public hearing

11 be held July 28, Thursday, July 28, 2005, at 6:15

12 p.m. in city council chambers.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

14 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on

15 the floor and a second. On the question?

16 MR. POCIUS: It just has to be

17 formalized, we have to formalize it by motion;

18 correct?

19 MR. WALSH: Yes.

20 MR. DIBILEO: All those in favor

21 signify by saying aye.

22 MS. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

24 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

133

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1 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

2 ayes have it, so moved.

3 MR. POCIUS: Just one other comment,

4 really just a comment, there was a lot of talk

5 tonight and my alma matter came up and I did

6 graduate from Scranton Prep many years ago, a long  
7 time ago, and to go to Scranton Prep you really  
8 don't need a silver spoon in your mouth because I  
9 certainly didn't have one, I was raised on a  
10 patrolman's salary, at that time it was probably  
11 far, far less than those salaries paid out today  
12 and my mother at the time worked in a grocery store  
13 as a clerk and I was proud that they took the  
14 initiative to back up what Mr. McTiernan said  
15 before, took the initiative to teach me from right  
16 and wrong at an early age, instill those family  
17 values in that I think all parents should instill  
18 in their children. If you are taught right from  
19 wrong from an early age then that's the best  
20 teaching you can give everyone. Everyone has to  
21 realize that every child that they have, every  
22 child is different. Every child is a different  
23 case, nobody is exactly the same. If you have two  
24 children in your house and they could be complete  
25 opposite, one could be a terror and one could be

1 the nicest angel you ever met, but the bottom line  
2 is that if you teach them the right way even the  
3 terror, the one that's always in a whirlwind, will  
4 do the right thing when it comes down to doing it,  
5 and the little angel may do the wrong thing once in  
6 awhile, but the thing is that there is lot of --  
7 what I'm trying to say is that this whole situation  
8 that Mr. Davis brought up and Mr. McTiernan  
9 responded to is that this is kind of getting away,  
10 but this is city business because it was brought up  
11 here, that the biggest responsibility on anything  
12 lies with the parents of these children. If you  
13 don't get it in the house, naturally, you have a  
14 lot of broken homes and a lot of children have to  
15 go to school from broken homes and that's not an  
16 easy task, and then, as Mrs. Evans said, not only  
17 the teachers but personnel at the school become  
18 their surrogate mothers and fathers. They really  
19 look up to people and that's even a bigger  
20 responsibility because you are dealing out  
21 something to people that you shouldn't have to do,  
22 but it's something that you want to do and you are  
23 touched by a child who reaches out to you for love  
24 and affection or discipline or whatever that might

25 be. So what I'm trying to get at here is everyone

135

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1 has opinions on different things and, you know, I  
2 think we have to keep the open dialogue going, but  
3 it has to be two-sided and sometimes tonight I  
4 think there was some -- a lot of emotions on both  
5 sides of the podium tonight and that's good  
6 sometimes and sometimes it's bad, but as long as  
7 the dialogue is kept open then we are doing our job  
8 up here at city legislatures, so that's basically  
9 it.

10 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.

11 Pocius. Mr. Courtright, motions or comments?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes, Mr. President.

13 Last week I brought up about the bench at Powderly  
14 Park and I found out that the West Side  
15 Neighborhood Association had purchased them and Joe  
16 Nallo, Pennship Powdlery Park also and Allen Park  
17 and I believe Fellows Park, so we want to thank him  
18 and thank the Neighborhood Association.  
19 Mrs. Evans brought up about Merrifield Avenue

20 flooding, I believe we each got a copy of these,  
21 I'll leave my copy here so if any of those  
22 individuals would like --.

23 MR. SAUNDERS: Mr. Parker came in  
24 tonight with those and actually I started opening  
25 Mr. Dibileo's and he said let the --

136

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1 MR. POCIUS: They are in there?

2 Okay.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: We'll leave a copy  
4 anyway for these people if they would like to read  
5 his answers to the problems down there, I'm sure  
6 they might be interested. And just one last thing,  
7 I'm not quite sure what Mrs. Williams was trying to  
8 get at when she asked if I support unions, I hope  
9 she wasn't saying a union is a bad thing because  
10 I'll state for the record right now I have never  
11 belonged to a union in my entire life, but my  
12 father did and my father was a teamster and my  
13 father took a heart attack at a very young age and  
14 couldn't work anymore and if it wasn't for the

15 Teamsters I don't think we would have eaten. My  
16 mom had to go to work because my dad couldn't and  
17 then she worked the Acme market which was also a  
18 union and that provided my father with insurance to  
19 give him the medicines and he had five bypasses  
20 done on his heart that we wouldn't have had if it  
21 wasn't for unions, so I hope she is not implying  
22 that unions are a bad thing, because if she is I  
23 have to disagree with her, you know. I just --  
24 that hits home to me and I hope that's not what  
25 she's implying when she asks do I support unions

137

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1 and that's all I have, Mr. President, thank you.  
2 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.  
3 Courtright. I just have a couple of quick things,  
4 and I want to apologize to our new dictation person  
5 here sitting in for Lisa because her fingers must  
6 be tired by now, thanks for being here tonight.  
7 There is a young man named Brian Kusik that's  
8 working towards his Eagle Scout designation and  
9 this coming spring it's not for a little bit of

10 time here. He wants to be able to get the  
11 authority to put a flag pole up at the East  
12 Mountain Firehouse, so I'm not certain exactly what  
13 needs to be done there, Jay, but if we could find  
14 out if we could get the okay for him come this next  
15 spring to help Brian Kusik out. His dad, by the  
16 way, is going to be going to Iraq shortly, so thank  
17 you.

18 MR. POCIUS: Mr. Dibileo?

19 MR. DIBILEO: Yes.

20 MR. POCIUS: That may be considered  
21 a gift mark and it may only take a motion by  
22 council under third order, you know what I'm trying  
23 to say?

24 MR. WALSH: We can check that.

25 MR. POCIUS: I'm not sure, can you

138

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1 check in --

2 MR. WALSH: Certainly.

3 MR. POCIUS: Stuff like that has

4 happened in the past, donations have to be accepted

5 through a motion.

6 MR. WALSH: Yes.

7 MR. POCIUS: Maybe he would

8 formalize it in writing, we could do it in third

9 order and that could be the way to do it, so that's

10 just a suggestion may be a way to simplify it, get

11 it out of the way early on.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you, Mr.

13 Pocius. There is also a young man by the name of

14 Brian Sinkowicz, and he wants us to look into the

15 fact that there is no stop signs on the corner of

16 North Garfield Avenue and West Gibson Street. He

17 and his mom were traveling in that intersection and

18 someone speeding almost ran into their vehicle and

19 would have hurt them and he's saying it's because

20 of the fact that there is no stop sign there at

21 this intersection if we could have that looked at,

22 please.

23 MR. SAUNDERS: The intersection is

24 what?

25 MR. DIBILEO: North Garfield Avenue

1 and West Gibson Street. Thank you. A couple of  
2 organizations asked me if I would consider  
3 mentioning the fact that they are having picnics,  
4 and Holy Rosary Church in North Scranton is having  
5 their picnic starting this evening June 16, and  
6 also tomorrow night, Saturday night, so it's the  
7 16th, 17th, and 18th of June at Holy Rosary Church  
8 and also St. Joe's in Minooka, your parish, Mr.  
9 Pocius, is having a picnic the same nights, June  
10 16, 17 and 18, so it's tonight and the next two  
11 nights. Now, let's hope we have good weather for  
12 them. St. David's where I'm a parishioner actually  
13 is having one next weekend the 23rd, 24th, and 25th  
14 and that's Thursday, Friday and Saturday 23, 24,  
15 25, St. David's.  
16 Jim Davis brought something up last week.  
17 There is a newspaper called Maloney News and they  
18 are having a festival I guess it would be called at  
19 Nay Aug Park in front of the Everhart Museum this  
20 coming Saturday, which would be June 18, from 12:00  
21 noon until 7:00 p.m. it's a unity festival, they  
22 welcome all persons, regardless of color, and they  
23 all have -- it will be sort of like the Italian

24 festival over at the courthouse, different vendors  
25 set up and there is going to be a lot of soul food

140

1 there and everyone is welcome and we hope they have  
2 a good turn out.

3 Last, a couple of quick things, Mrs. Betty  
4 Moreteck lives on Bryn-Mawr Street, I'll give you  
5 the address afterwards, she is having a little  
6 trouble since the court behind her house, Flagstaff  
7 Court was paved. Flagstaff Court is between St.  
8 Ann's Street and Bryn-Mawr and apparently the way  
9 it was paved she is happy it's paved, a lot of  
10 courts need paving, but the way it was paved is  
11 allowing water to come down, ends up in her  
12 basement, and if she could have somebody look into  
13 that she would be very appreciative. As I said, a  
14 lot of courts need paving. Personally I believe  
15 that the front of everyone's home should be paved  
16 before the backs of certain homes, I know that only  
17 a few courts have been paved throughout the city,  
18 and hopefully this season most front homes, streets

19 in the front of people's homes will be paved so  
20 before anymore courts get paved, especially those  
21 that need it and a lot of courts do needs it.  
22 Lastly, you know, as an elected official we  
23 often -- comments we make often get taken out of  
24 context and it just comes with the territory, I'm  
25 not going to pick on Ms. Shedlock, but a little

141

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1 story was written last weekend and she offered me  
2 to add to the story, but she said that most of my  
3 comments would be taken from a previous interview  
4 that I had with the Scranton Times when I was  
5 running for office with the editorial board there  
6 and that if I had time to add to the story that  
7 those comments would be included, but if I didn't  
8 they would just -- she would just use the comments  
9 from that editorial interview. I actually wanted  
10 to speak to her some more about the topic, but I  
11 called her up when we had an appointment and said,  
12 "I can't make the appointment today, I don't know  
13 if I'll be able to at all," because the story was

14 due the next day. Anyway, the story read that,  
15 "Attempts to reach Mr. Dibileo were unsuccessful,"  
16 and she said she didn't write that, it was put in  
17 by her editor and I believe her, so just it goes  
18 just to show you how many comments can be taken out  
19 of context, but another article really took  
20 something out of context, and I want to apologize  
21 in advance for this, but it's involving politics a  
22 little bit and if I could just read this statement  
23 and, again, I apologize in advance, but, "I greatly  
24 appreciate and am grateful to everyone that granted  
25 me the consideration of their vote on May 17

142

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1 including those that had go out of their way to use  
2 a pen, a sticker or a stamper. I'm honored to  
3 receive that consideration."  
4 I know we are not supposed to talk about  
5 politics, but when I commented on the fact that I  
6 was grateful before with the newspaper it didn't  
7 necessarily come out that way, I wanted people to  
8 know that I am grateful for that, and that's all I

9 have. Fifth order.

10 MR. WALSH: 5-B, ORDINANCE APPROVING

11 THE TRANSFER OF A RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE OWNED

12 BY THE ESTATE OF MARY ROSE DODGE USED AT THE DODGE

13 HOUSE, 813 BOULEVARD AVENUE, DICKSON CITY,

14 PENNSYLVANIA, LACKAWANNA COUNTY, LICENSE NO. R-3761

15 TO LEGENDS BAR AND GRILL, INC. FOR USE AT 110-112

16 NORTH MAIN AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS

17 REQUIRED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

18 MR. DIBILEO: At this time we'll

19 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be introduced into

20 it's proper committed.

21 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

23 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

24 MR. POCIUS: We need a public

25 hearing. When, Attorney Walsh? Could have it next

143

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1 week or the following week or does it make any

2 difference? Give me a time, I'll make a motion.

3 MR. SAUNDERS: 6:45 on next

4 Thursday, I don't know the exact dates.

5 MR. POCIUS: Maybe you want to

6 wait -- maybe you want to wait because I want to

7 ask Mr. Walsh on the next one because it involves

8 fees. We need a public hearing on the pool.

9 MR. WALSH: I think we should have

10 one on the that as well.

11 MR. POCIUS: So I think you may want

12 to think about these and schedule -- or come to a

13 consensus tonight, but whatever we can make the

14 motion in the mean time.

15 MR. SAUNDERS: You know, maybe we

16 should do that to keep the ball rolling on both of

17 these items, so --

18 MR. POCIUS: Okay, you want to push

19 this one first maybe and have the second one after

20 that or something?

21 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah. Let me go get

22 the date and then --

23 MR. POCIUS: We can make them

24 anytime during the meeting.

25 MR. SAUNDERS: Yeah, before we end

1 the meeting I'll have the date.

2 MR. POCIUS: We can do it any time,

3 right?

4 MR. WALSH: Yes, and you wouldn't

5 want to do it right now anyway only because we are

6 on the question from 5-B I believe.

7 MR. POCIUS: I think we can filter

8 those motions at any time he brings it back. Okay,

9 let's just move on. That's all, Gary. Thank you.

10 MR. DIBILEO: If there is any

11 further questions on 5-B? All those in favor

12 signify by saying aye?

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

15 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

18 ayes have it and so moved.

19 MR. WALSH: 5-C -FOR INTRODUCTION -

20 AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.

21 252, 2003, THEREBY AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL

22 NOS. 188 OF 1994 AND 103 OF 1995 AS SET FORTH IN

23 THE SCRANTON CODIFIED CODE AT SECTION 332-20  
24 PERTAINING TO FEES FOR USE OF FACILITIES TO AMEND  
25 THE FEES FOR THE USE OF OUTDOOR CITY POOLS OTHER

145

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1 THAN NAY AUG PARK.

2 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll

3 entertain a motion that 5-C be introduced into it's

4 proper committee.

5 MS. EVANS: So moved.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

7 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on

8 the floor and a second. On the question?

9 MR. POCIUS: Just on the question,

10 with everything I heard tonight I'll vote for

11 introduction, but I want to hear what is said at

12 the public hearing and I want to see how this thing

13 goes before final passage.

14 MR. DIBILEO: Any further

15 questions?

16 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes, Mr. Dibileo, if

17 I may?

18 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah.

19 MR. MCTIERNAN: Just, I continue to  
20 wrestle with these pool fees as all the other  
21 council members do to a certain degree, fully  
22 recognizing the fact that there are social impacts,  
23 financial impacts and, quite frankly, moral impacts  
24 just offering an alternate perspective at least.  
25 I'm not so sure that these pool fees are designed

146

1 to be socioeconomically exclusive, but just to  
2 bring up a few other ideas for consideration, and  
3 this isn't an indication as to where I'm going to  
4 vote, but certainly Montage, Lackawanna State Park,  
5 the water slide at Montage, the ski resort,  
6 Scranton School District facilities for that  
7 matter, you just can't go in there and use those  
8 and just to bring up some ideas, the way at West  
9 Scranton Intermediate School requires some nominal  
10 fee, little league fees for my son, for example, I  
11 have to say they exceeded \$90 this year, I don't  
12 know what my parents paid for me when I played

13 little league, but there was a cost to bear and I  
14 know one of the things that we have talked about  
15 and Mr. Davis talked about the -- I guess for lack  
16 of a better words and not to put words in his  
17 mouth, the possibly decaying fabric, I guess, of  
18 the family unit, just to throw out as we discuss  
19 this motion over the next several weeks, I would  
20 love to find a way that we could encourage families  
21 to use that to find a way to possibly charge and  
22 reduce the fee, if not eliminate fees for families,  
23 I don't think it's the desire to exclude any  
24 persons necessarily from the pool systems, but I  
25 think it's important that we look at it at a

147

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1 different way rather than exclusionary, possibly  
2 encouraging those family units to attend, guardians  
3 to attend and folks with children to attend. I  
4 think that's what Mr. Davis was talking about and I  
5 know that our discussion back and forth earlier  
6 this evening talked about the responsibility and I  
7 still believe that the first responsibility, the

8 primary responsibility for many moral issues starts  
9 at home and if we encourage the use of our public  
10 facilities for a family unit that we may do well to  
11 meet in the middle, but, again I encourage the  
12 public comments that have been happening and I will  
13 vote yes tonight also on this motion to get it  
14 going through the process. Thank you, Mr.  
15 President.

16 MR. DIBILEO: Thank you. Also on  
17 the question, if I might, there is one change to  
18 the legislation that we previously had discussed,  
19 and that is we realized I guess it's obvious that  
20 if there was going to be a fee for nonresidents  
21 adults that that would entail that every adult be  
22 asked for identification and there may be a lot of  
23 city residents adults attempting to get into the  
24 pools without identification and it wouldn't be  
25 that clean, so to speak, so we talked a little bit

148

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1 about that and we caucused today, I suggested that  
2 we eliminate the fee altogether so that everyone

3 gets in for free, even nonresident adults, so that  
4 no identification is needed and age is no factor,  
5 you know, over 18 years old.  
6 MS. EVANS: I was just thinking  
7 though in terms of the chemicals necessary for all  
8 of the pools and such maybe you would want to put a  
9 donation box at each one of the neighborhood pools  
10 so that those who are willing can certainly donate  
11 towards those extra costs, but, you know, I think  
12 if you were eliminate the strong armed fee and just  
13 go with the donations those who can afford it I  
14 think, you know, may certainly donate understanding  
15 there are costs involved and those who can't afford  
16 those costs, of course, are able just to enter  
17 without any type of embarrassment.

18 MR. DIBILEO: Yeah, I agree with  
19 that, that's not part of the legislation but I  
20 think it's a good idea that we accept donations to  
21 offset some of the costs, I don't think there will  
22 be a huge drop off in revenue. For example, up at  
23 Nay Aug I know that they have had their  
24 difficulties and I myself was up there and gave a  
25 nice donation to -- I can't remember her name, but

1 the director of Nay Aug, so hopefully that will  
2 happen at the pools. If there is no further  
3 questions? All those in favor signify by saying  
4 aye?

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

7 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

10 ayes have it, so moved.

11 MR. WALSH: 5-D FOR INTRODUCTION A

12 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

13 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER

14 INTO SUPPLEMENTAL ENGINEERING AGREEMENT NUMBER

15 041761-B WITH BUCHART-HORN, INC. TO AMEND PARTS 1,

16 22 AND 333 OF THE AGREEMENT RESULTING FROM A CHANGE

17 IN PROJECT SCOPE FROM BRIDGE

18 REDECKING/REHABILITATION TO MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION

19 AND AN OVERALL EXTENSION OF THE LACKAWANNA AVENUE

20 BRIDGE PROJECT FOR AN ADDITIONAL COST OF

21 \$331,1000.10.

22 MR. DIBILEO: At this time I'll  
23 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be introduced into  
24 it's proper committee.  
25 MR. POCIUS: So moved.

150

1 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?  
2 MR. POCIUS: On the question, the  
3 city's only up for five cents on the dollar, it's 5  
4 percent, we have an 80-50-5 reimbursement agreement  
5 with the state and believe me these amendments, the  
6 contract, we go through them all of the time with  
7 PennDot, they are scrutinized by PennDot  
8 exclusively for hours, and costs, and also mark  
9 just for your own knowledge, information, again,  
10 the signature page is going to have to be slightly  
11 modified to include the controller and the city  
12 solicitor's signature line. It's set up for the  
13 mayor and Jay, but I think we could add them just  
14 by typing them in later on, we have done this in  
15 the past. Maybe it can be -- I don't think it  
16 really requires an amendment because it's really,

17 nothing changes in the agreement, just the  
18 signature line, that's all.

19 MR. WALSH: Okay.

20 MR. POCIUS: Because we asked about  
21 this project last week and this is the way to keep  
22 it on track, you need this.

23 MR. DIBILEO: If there is no further  
24 questions, all those in favor signify by saying  
25 aye.

151

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1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

3 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

5 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

6 ayes have it and motion carries.

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: May I interrupt,  
8 please, I'd like to make a motion at this time to  
9 conduct a public hearing on item 5-B, the transfer  
10 of the liquor license on June 23, 2005, at 6:00.

11 MR. POCIUS: Second.

12 MR. DIBILEO: Okay, there's a motion

13 on the floor and a second. On the question? All

14 those in favor significant by saying aye?

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

17 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

19 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

20 ayes have it, so moved.

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: The second one, Mr.

22 President, if I might, a motion for a public

23 hearing on item 5-C amending the fees at the

24 outdoor pools excepting Nay Aug Park pool for June

25 23, 2005, at 6:15 p.m.

152

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1 MS. EVANS: Second.

2 MR. DIBILEO: Motion on the Floor

3 and a second. On the question? All those in favor

4 signify by saying aye?

5 MS. EVANS: Aye.

6 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

7 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

9 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? The

10 ayes have it, motion carries.

11 MR. WALSH: 5-E.

12 MS. EVANS: I'm sorry. Mr. Walsh,

13 before you read E and F I'd like to make a motion

14 to table both of these resolutions, I have

15 requested a good deal of information from Mr.

16 Wilson I have received everything that I had

17 requested, however, I have one last request and

18 that is I would like a list of the projects and

19 uses for the 5.2 million from the mayor and then

20 I'm hoping that council can examine that list, make

21 any necessary additions or deletions to ensure the

22 money goes into the neighborhood and into the

23 neighborhood police patrols where it belongs, so I

24 can't blindly agree to taking 5.2 million, losing

25 \$600,000 and selling our most secure loans while at

153

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1 the same time we are keeping our let's say high

2 risk loans without seeing a specific use for that  
3 money, I just can't take anyone's word for it any  
4 longer because, for example, we had the sale of the  
5 municipal golf course and those proceeds were to be  
6 placed in a trust, you know, to date rather the  
7 money is in CD's in First National Community Bank  
8 so that's never occurred, you know, we had a number  
9 of issues that involve broken promises, you know,  
10 even down to our mayor saying he is a fiscal  
11 conservative as councilman and as a mayor he has  
12 borrowed and spent, borrowed and spent, exercising  
13 deficit spending at dangerously ever increasing  
14 levels, so before I can agree to this, and I'm not  
15 saying that this is a bad concept or that I would  
16 vote against this agreement, but before I could  
17 make an informed decision I have to feel secure  
18 that I know where this money is going and I know  
19 it's going to the right places, so I'd make a  
20 motion to hold or to table, I'm sorry, 5-E and 5-F.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: I'll second it so

22 Mrs. Evans can get her information?

23 MR. DIBILEO: Motion on the floor

24 and a second? On the question?

25 MR. POCIUS: Well, I will be voting

154

1 in the negative because I think Mr. Wilson provided  
2 us everything possibly that he could do that deals  
3 with the ordinance itself. I think with the  
4 proceeds that's another issue, so I will be voting,  
5 no, no to table it.

6 MR. DIBILEO: If there is no further  
7 questions, all those in favor signify by saying  
8 aye?

9 MS. EVANS: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed?

12 MR. POCIUS: No.

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: No.

14 MR. DIBILEO: By a 3-2 vote motion

15 carries.

16 MR. WALSH: Sixth order, there is no

17 business this evening in sixth order. Seventh

18 order, 7-A FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE FOR

19 FINANCE FOR ADOPTION RESOLUTION NO. 148, 2005

20 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY

21 OFFICIALS FOR THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE A  
22 MORTGAGE SATISFACTION CONCERNING THREE LOANS MADE  
23 ON MAY 21, 1992, TO MUNICIPAL INDUSTRIAL  
24 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF SCRANTON (MIDAS,) AND  
25 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN (EDA) LOAN, AN URBAN

155

1 DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT REPAYMENT PROGRAM (UDAG  
2 LOAN) AND A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG  
3 LOAN) ALL OF WHICH ARE SECURED BY ONE MORTGAGE.

4 MR. DIBILEO: What's the  
5 recommendation of the chairperson for the Committee  
6 on Finance?

7 MS. EVANS: As chair for the  
8 Committee on Finance I'd recommend final passage of  
9 item 7-A.

10 MR. POCIUS: Second.

11 MR. DIBILEO: On the question?

12 MS. EVANS: Actually -- oh, no, no,  
13 no, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm thinking of another  
14 piece of legislation.

15 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on

16 the on floor and a second, on the question? Roll

17 call, please, Kay?

18 MS. GARVEY: Mr. McTiernan?

19 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

20 MS. GARVEY: Ms. Evans?

21 MS. EVANS: Yes.

22 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Pocius?

23 MR. POCIUS: Yes.

24 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Courtright?

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

156

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1 MS. GARVEY: Mr. Dibileo?

2 MR. DIBILEO: Yes. I hereby declare

3 item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Mr. Walsh, before

5 you read 7-B and 7-C back in caucus in the room

6 earlier I asked if council would concur in that we

7 hold B and C. There was some individuals from the

8 Single Tax Office that had some concerns about some

9 things that might take place in the future and

10 absolutely has nothing to with the B and C as far

11 as they read here, I'm in favor of both of them, I  
12 think we need both of them, but there was concerns  
13 of possible outsourcing of some work in which they  
14 do now or potential work that they could do, so I'm  
15 going to have Mr. Saunders draft a letter and send  
16 it to the administration and just ask that they,  
17 you know, confirm to us and to these workers that  
18 are concerned that these people will specifically  
19 be used for what's here and not for future  
20 outsourcing, so I make a motion that we hold Item B  
21 and C.

22 MS. EVANS: Second.

23 MR. DIBILEO: We have a motion on  
24 the floor and a second, on the question?

25 MS. EVANS: Yes, also by next week

157

1 can I get some information, please, I'd like to  
2 know where the savings is. I know that, you know,  
3 it seems ACS was 92,000, part timers about 30 some  
4 33,000, but ACS also did the payroll, and they did  
5 other work, they had their own consultants so that

6 if the city had any problems they could just call  
7 them up at no extra cost and also, you know, at  
8 that point we didn't even have I think the IT  
9 Department going and so now, you know, even though  
10 it appears there is a savings here we have ADP  
11 taking care of a payroll and that's a whole  
12 separate cost and we have in-house consultants and  
13 that involves costs and now we have an IT  
14 Department and that involves salaries, and so I  
15 think, you know, when you put you all of that  
16 together where is the savings? I don't know if  
17 there are any real savings here and it's not that  
18 I'm opposed to this, I just don't know that this is  
19 the right presentation for this agreement, so if  
20 you could please have them explain to me where the  
21 savings lies.

22 MR. DIBILEO: If there is no further  
23 questions, all those in favor signify by saying  
24 aye?

25 MS. EVANS: Aye.

1 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

2 MR. POCIUS: Aye.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

4 MR. DIBILEO: Aye. Opposed? By a

5 5-0 vote the motion carries. Seeing no further

6 business on the agenda I'll entertain a motion we

7 adjourn.

8 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

9 MS. EVANS: Second.

10 MR. DIBILEO: We are adjourned.

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## 2 CERTIFICATE

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5 I hereby certify that the proceedings are  
6 contained fully and accurately in the notes of  
7 testimony taken by me at the hearing of the  
8 above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is  
9 a true and correct transcript to the best of my  
10 ability.

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15 Cathene S. Nardozzi

16 Official Court Reporter

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160